

THE JOURNAL

February 13, 2004

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Sports Albany boys in tight league soccer race [C1]

Leisure Berkeley-based magazine gives DIY decor an edge [C10]

Mixed-use plan could house new library

four-story complex housing, commercial and a library is being proposed for Fairmount Avenue.

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — City planners prepared to act quickly to get a four-story development encompassing 28 residential units, as well as commercial space and possibly a library on Fairmount Avenue, the designs of which received approval from the Planning Commission during a study session recently.

opment has been submitted by Concrete Action LLC, based in Berkeley and composed of principals Liz Grossman, an El Cerrito resident and full-time criminal defense lawyer, and Lisa Thomas, a Contra Costa County resident with her own nonprofit documentary production company.

Concrete Action has developed four other projects, primarily mixed use, in El Cerrito and Berkeley. Grossman said she's been disappointed with some of the buildings built in El Cerrito and said her firm strives to build socially conscious, progressive developments with high-quality materials.

Her newest development could be built in "18 months maybe, if we really push, and

that's the goal," she said. "I cannot think of a better contribution than to give the city I live in a library. I would be beside myself."

The plans show the building taking over a 24,394-square-foot lot at 6420 Fairmount Ave., near Lexington Avenue, adjacent to El Cerrito Plaza and a little over a block away from the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Currently, there's an 8,060-square-foot building on the lot, which fronts Fairmount Avenue.

The development application will go through the city's regular permitting process over the next two months, an "extremely aggressive" schedule, said planning manager Jennifer Carman. City officials will simultaneously work with the developer regard-

ing the prospect of installing a library in the building, while getting a sense from the Redevelopment Agency about how much money it's willing to spend on the project, said City Manager Scott Hanin.

"It's creative; I think it depends on what your view of what a library should be," Hanin said. "It certainly could be something that could get a brand new library on the quicker side. We hope going into this that it's cheaper, that we'll save money doing it this way, but we're not there yet."

Concrete Action wants to build 24 condominiums and four live/work lofts, Grossman said.

See LIBRARY, Page A9



EDDIE LEDESMA/STAFF

STUDENTS USE THE El Cerrito Library after school on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Increased patronage and the small size and maintenance needs of the current building have the city considering a plan for a new library on Fairmount Avenue.



EDDIE LEDESMA/STAFF

TEACHER SUZY RONFELDT goes over a reading assignment with her third grade class at Cornell Elementary School. Ronfeldt wrote a book about how to teach third grade math.

Book imparts math appeal to students

Albany teacher's years of experience have resulted in a book to help educators teach mathematics to young people.

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Growing up in a resort town in Montana, Suzy Ronfeldt was one of those kids who disliked math. She found it boring. But she studied hard and got good grades anyway. It wasn't until she became a teacher that she developed an interest in the subject. Teaching mathematics in the Albany School District, she was fascinated by the way she learned the subjects, and she made sense of different concepts.

She began to love it (teaching) because I like the conversations. I like the conversation, said Ronfeldt, 62. "I love to help children reach for their best in what they do in all areas of school."

Her fascination has led to a book she wrote over two years, published by Math Solution Publishers in December. "Third Grade Math: A Month to Month" reproduces the games, teaching techniques and classroom management she uses in her third-grade classroom at Cornell Elementary School, where

she's taught for 22 years.

When teaching math, have a dialogue with children, the main thrust of the book goes. Try not to get hung up on standardized testing, don't rush them through a textbook, and above all else, let the children make their own mental connections to the material.

"The idea (of the book) is to help beginning teachers realize they can have meaningful conversations with children and take the time to do so and help their (children's) understanding," Ronfeldt said. "And for the experienced teachers, to rethink the way they're teaching mathematics."

It's not always easy to have those conversations or rethink educational techniques, Ronfeldt admits, particularly in the post-"No Child Left Behind Act" educational world in which she and her colleagues are now working.

Signed into law in 2002, the controversial act ensures that every child in the country is proficient in English and math by 2014 — by imposing mandatory standardized testing. Such tests are not conducive to challenging students to think, reason and get excited about math, Ronfeldt said.

"I'm worried that we're going to have a lot of children like me (when she was a girl), who can pass the test, and get the answer, but never understand why it made sense and never really like math,"

"I love to help children reach for their best in what they do in all areas of school."

— Suzy Ronfeldt, Cornell Elementary School teacher

she said.

Teaching math, Ronfeldt reasoned, should be a lot like teaching writing or reading. It wouldn't be enough to teach children to read without giving them books and stories to enjoy. It wouldn't be enough to teach punctuation and grammar without letting children write stories.

The same goes for math. One example is the problem 38 minus 19. In her class, children are asked to write their own story problem for that problem and to solve the problem using two different strategies.

There are many ways of going about it, of course, all giving children a chance to share their thinking and reasoning with one another. It's something not found in a standardized math textbook, Ronfeldt said.

Ronfeldt believes standardized teaching methods caused her to dislike math in her younger years. However, she eventually grew to love the subject as well as teaching, and earned a master's degree in early childhood and special education from Sonoma State University.

For 12 years, she also taught teaching workshops with the Marilyn Burns Education Association, an advocate of developing greater insight into teaching math and the parent company of the publisher of Ronfeldt's book.

Ronfeldt is concerned that in the current political climate, it's getting more difficult to teach children in a way that gets them excited about math. Standardized testing appears to be the enemy of her teaching philosophy and federal and state laws are making those tests more intrusive, she said.

However, teachers are the bright spot in education, particularly those in the Albany School District, Ronfeldt said. They're full of good ideas, and she hoped they could find time to write their own books.

In addition, "it would be great if there were more conversations going on right now about the direction education is taking or about how children learn."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Project hasn't been a walk in the park

■ The makeover of Memorial Park is costing more, taking longer than anticipated

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited Memorial Park renovation project is about four months behind schedule, and the city is paying extra for changes in the project and problems at the site.

Albany project manager Barry Whittaker said the city has given the contractor, Castro Valley-based Grade Tech Inc., an additional 73 days to complete the Memorial Park improvements, in addition to paying for \$150,000 worth of changes, some of which appear to be modifications city officials made to the original plans.

Other changes were problems encountered during the work. Those include encounters with shallow tree roots and utility lines underneath the ground, according to a city report.

The city has given the contractor additional time to com-

plete the renovations without penalties. The contract states the city "may retain" \$500 a day if the project was not completed within 128 days.

The contract between Grade Tech and the city states the contractor will receive \$503,800 for completing the work, and "for all loss or damage arising out of the nature of the work ... from the action of the elements; and from any unforeseen difficulties or obstruction which may arise or be encountered in the prosecution of the work until its acceptance by the city ..."

Whittaker said the \$150,000 granted for the project is in addition to the original \$503,800 promised to the contractor.

Vice Mayor Robert Good has come out in favor of assigning penalties to the contractor. City administrator Beth Pollard said the city should wait for the project to be completed before making any decisions on that option.

"I think the feeling is we're getting taken for a ride," said Good. He added: "I felt the delays were not justified. I felt the

See RENOVATE, Page A9

Commission member says he was pressured to resign

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — When Ross Tobia volunteered for the city's park and recreation commission a year ago, the 38-year-old research psychologist knew what he was getting into.

He said he volunteered his time, attended the monthly Wednesday night meetings and tried to balance his own concerns about the city's environment with the commission's duties: advising the City Council on issues related to parks, playgrounds, landscaping and more.

He also knew that the council, which appointed him, had the right to dismiss him.

But he remains baffled by a phone call he said he received from Councilwoman Sandi Potter a day before he was expected to become commission chairman. Potter, he said, gave him the option to resign, or see his appointment become the subject of a council discussion.

Tobia, who has submitted a letter of resignation, says he feels he was pressured to resign, and he and others on the commission



Ross Tobia

say they don't know the reason why. The council's action also has raised questions about whether it violated a state open meeting law.

Parks commissioner Rosemary Loubal has criticized the council's action, arguing that Tobia was committed to his role on the commission. Though occasionally temperamental, he always apologized and worked out conflicts with the other commissioners, she said.

"If he really irritated someone bad enough, that he should have to be kicked off the commission, that person should have spoken to him," said Loubal, who last year acted as parks commission chairwoman. "You annoyed me when you did X, Y and Z. But this behind-the-back stuff, when there's no way to talk about it ... that's not a good way to do business."

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INSIDE

KNIGHT RIDER

At the Library

■ Stumped for reading ideas? Just start with award-winning children's books. Page A5

Life is a Movie

■ Friends move to Jersey; Albany film fan loses favorite Oscar-watching pals. Page A3



Martin Snapp

■ A Valentine's Day story about a couple who would marry if they could. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Help on taxes available at the library

Volunteers from the AARP are offering free tax help for taxpayers with middle and low incomes, with special attention to those 60 years and older, at the Albany Library on Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. through April. Make appointments at the Library's Reference Desk or by calling 510-526-3720, ext. 5.

Albany High needs writing coaches

Albany High School is looking for Writers' Room coaches to help sophomores improve their writing and critical thinking skills. The Writers' Room, based on a highly successful program at Berkeley High, works with students at all ability levels, one-on-one, on writing assignments in their English classes. The Berkeley program has trained more than 300 parent and community volunteers, few of whom are professional writers or teachers. Program organizers said a side benefit for parents is that they learn valuable strategies for communicating with and working with their own children at home.

To become a writing coach, volunteers need to commit to a regular two-hour-per-week volunteer time during the day at Albany High, attend the training, which is two three-hour classes, and complete Livescan fingerprinting and a tuberculosis test.

For details, e-mail Mary Lou Sumberg, AHS Site Coordinator for the project, at msumberg@albany.k12.ca.us. Or call and leave a message at 510-558-2508 and leave an e-mail address for communication purposes.

Help needed for library Friends book sale

The Friends of the Albany Library would like volunteers from the community to help with its 50-cent book sale on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Help is needed to set up the sale on Friday, Feb. 20, to work on the day of the sale and to clean up. For information, call the library at 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

Kindergarten sign-up deadline is Feb. 25

The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to kindergarten for fall on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Starting Feb. 26, children may be registered at Ocean View, Marin or Cornell schools. Also, children in grades 1-5 who currently reside in Albany need to register at this time.

Registering a child at the closest school to home does not guarantee assignment to that school, district officials say. Many factors are considered in student assignment.

Parents need their child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport and be prepared to fill out health forms concerning vaccinations, immunizations and childhood diseases. Documentation of the dates of immunizations for polio, DTP, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella for each child is required. No child can enter kindergarten next fall unless he or she has had these immunizations. No child will be allowed to attend school unless all information is complete, officials say.

This registration is for current Albany residents only. Parents not residing in Albany who are interested in enrolling new students in Albany elementary schools must submit an inter-district permit from their district of residence before May 1 to the district office. Information: 510-558-3765.

Recorders to play to help St. Alban's

The Bay Area Recorder Series will present, as its first event of 2004, a concert to raise money for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, on Sunday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.

The money will go to help the church make its parish hall, a popular venue for many early-music groups, handicapped-accessible. The church is currently raising funds to install an elevator, and a bathroom and ramp that are up to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The sanctuary is handicapped-accessible.

The concert will feature longtime members of the Bay Area recorder community and newcomers, including the Farallon Recorder Quartet (Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Hanneke van Proosdij), Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Judy Linsenber, David Barnett, Tom Bickley and Sabine Djernaes., as well as visiting artist Dan Laurin.

Tickets are \$15-\$18, or \$5 for children accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 510-559-4670 or e-mail barecorder-series@mindspring.com.

El Cerrito

College head speaking at AAUW

Dr. Helen Carr, president of Contra Costa College, will speak at the general meeting of the West County branch of the American Association of University Women at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the El Cerrito Masonic Center, 6922 Stockton Ave. in El Cerrito. Carr will review "We Need to Talk about Kevin," a novel by Lionel Shriver, whose theme is the increase in violence perpetrated by children. For details, call 510-223-0269.

Petroglyph is location of meeting

Members of the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association, Friends of Baxter Creek, the students and staff of Prospect Sierra School, Canyon Trail Park Neighbors and others will meet for the second time for landscape planning in the Canyon Trail Adopt-a-Park Project on Sunday, March 21, at 4 p.m. at the petroglyph site, adjacent to the frog pond in the lower park. The group will spend 45 minutes at the site to view the existing conditions and begin visualizing how a native California interpretive garden might be designed to fit the landscape, and then meet from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Canyon Trail Club House at the upper park. For information call 510-528-3203.

Symphony to play at Northminster

The Kensington Symphony, with Eric Hansen as guest conductor and Seth Montfort on piano, will play a concert featuring the works of Tchaikovsky, Rossini and others at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. Suggested donation: \$10; seniors, \$8. Children free. 510-524-4335.

Get acquainted with Harding School

Potential kindergarten parents will have a chance to meet the principal, parents and students of Harding Elementary School on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9 to 10 a.m. Parents can visit kindergarten classrooms and learn more about plans for moving into the school's new buildings. Refreshments will be provided. The school is on Fairmount at Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito. The main entrance is on C Street (between Ashbury and Behrens). For details, call 510-525-0273.

Time to start forming Relay for Life team

Friends, family, neighbors and co-workers can join in the fight against cancer by forming a team for the fifth annual Richmond-El Cerrito-Berkeley-Kensington-Albany Relay for Life which will be held May 22 and 23 at the El Cerrito High School football field and track. Relay for Life is a 24-hour team event to fight cancer by raising awareness and funds to support the programs and services of the American Cancer Society. Over the past 19 years, this event has spread to 4,300 communities. The funds raised provide for essential research grants, patient services, advocacy efforts and community education. Last year, 25 teams with eight to 15 team members raised a total of \$52,000. This year's goal is to have 35 teams participate and to raise \$80,000.

Team captains are encouraged to begin recruiting team members now. For details, contact Evie Low at 525-4764 or evielow@pacbell.net or visit www.cancer.org, and click on the Relay For Life icon.

— Journal staff

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 2

■ **HOME BURGLARY** — During the day thieves broke into a residence on the 1100 block of Masonic Avenue by breaking a rear window. They stole items from inside and departed unseen.

■ **SUSPICIOUS SUBJECT** — At about 11:30 p.m. a resident on the 900 block of Peralta Avenue reported observing a man in a dark jacket inside her gold '00 Volvo. He was gone when officers arrived.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

■ **MULTIPLE WARRANTS** — At about 2 p.m., officers stopped a gray '03 Ford near San Pablo and Brighton avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 25-year-old Richmond man was found to have two outstanding warrants from Oakland for driving with a suspended license, failure to appear and vehicle code violations in the amount of \$15,000 and a Berkeley warrant for no proof of insurance, failure to appear and vehicle code violations in the amount of \$1,313. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — A few minutes after 2 p.m. officers arrested a subject on the 1100 block of Washington Avenue for disorderly conduct and for an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. He was cited and released.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

■ **AUTO BREAK-INS** — During the night thieves broke into a taupe Acura on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue. Thieves also broke into a silver Toyota Corolla on the 700 block of Calhoun Street. There were no witnesses in either incident.

■ **AUTOS STOLEN AND FOUND** — A resident on the 800 block of Washington Avenue reported that during the night thieves had stolen her silver '99 Saturn. While taking the report officers noticed a tan '96 Saturn at the location that had been reported as stolen from Oakland. The car was towed and the owner notified.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers stopped a gray Ford near Key Route Boulevard and Portland Avenue for a vehicle code violation. A check found that the driver, a 25-year-old Berkeley man, had an outstanding warrant from Santa Clara for trespassing. He was cited and released.

Thursday, Feb. 5

■ **DUI** — At about 3:30 a.m., officers stopped a green '97 Acura Legend on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue and arrested the driver, a 25-year-old Richmond man, for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ **OAKLAND WARRANT** — At about 9 a.m. officers arrested a 48-year-old Oakland man for an outstanding Oak-

land warrant for failure to appear and disorderly conduct. He was cited and released.

Friday, Feb. 6

■ **INTOXICATED** — At about 2:15 a.m., officers contacted a 28-year-old Richmond man who was intoxicated and arrested him for disorderly conduct. He was cited and released.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Shortly before noon officers stopped a black '91 Honda near Buchanan and Polk Streets for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 53-year-old Albany woman, was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$2,510. She was cited and released.

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — Unknown thieves kicked in the door of a residence on the 700 block of Cerrito Street and stole items from inside.

Saturday, Feb. 7

■ **CAR THIEF ARRESTED** — At about 11:15 p.m., officers responded to the 700 block of Madison Street on reports of a man who had been seen looking into a green '97 Honda. The vehicle was found to have been reported as stolen from Berkeley the previous day. The 38-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be on probation and to have an outstanding warrant from Berkeley. He was arrested for grand theft auto and possession of stolen property. He was cited and

Sunday, Feb. 8

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — Thieves stole a gold Honda the 600 block of Cornell

Monday, Feb. 9

■ **SATURN STOLEN** — A blue '95 Saturn that was the 1200 block of Brighton

■ **DALY CITY WARRANT** — Stopped a black '79 Chevrolet near Gillman and San enues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 24-year-old cisco man, was found with an outstanding warrant from drug charges in the amount of \$3,000. He was arrested and released.

Summary

During the week of Feb. 2 through Feb. 8, police towed five cars and responded to false alarms. In the district, officers responded to 13 robberies and 203 civil cases, stopped 178 vehicles for violating 86 citations and 29 Firefighter/paramedics and 10 medical emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 22

■ **ROBBERY** — Two teenage boys knocked down and punched and kicked a victim before stealing the victim's cell phone and duffel bag, just after 7 p.m. near Manila Avenue and Everett Street.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A '91 Plymouth Acclaim was stolen from a parking lot on the 6500 block of Gladys Avenue between Jan. 8 and 22.

Friday, Jan. 23

■ **BURGLARY** — Someone forced their way into a garage on the 2600 block of Tulare Avenue between 10

p.m. Jan. 22 and 9 a.m. Jan. 23 and took about \$4,800 worth of property including four rifles, a shotgun, a drill and a painting by Remington.

Monday, Jan. 26

■ **BURGLARY** — Someone kicked in the door of a home on the 2600 block of Franciscan Way just before 4 p.m. and took antique jewelry and money from the master bedroom and also ransacked a hutch in the dining room.

■ **ATTEMPTED VEHICLE THEFT** — Late in the evening, someone tried but failed to enter a '97 Honda by inserting a shaved key into the driver's door lock.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

■ **BURGLARY** — Someone stole a computer, camera, Xbox, checks and cash worth a total of \$2,000 between 2:30 and just after 3 p.m. at a home on the 2600 block of Tamaulipas Avenue.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A red '91 Acura Integra, two-door was stolen from the 2300 block of Cedar Street between Jan. 23 and 27.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A white '88 Honda Prelude two-door reported as stolen to San Pablo police was found on Madison Avenue west of San Pablo Avenue just before midnight.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

■ **ROBBERY** — A man with a white scarf over his face and a woman on the 3200 block of Avenue just before 9 p.m. stole a silver handgun and some money, took her purse and

■ **ROBBERY** — A man with a gun entered the Subway at 10390 San Pablo Ave. and employee a cloth bag and cash; he took about \$350.

■ **BURGLARY** — The late door of a home on the 2200 Tulare Avenue was shattered about 12:40 and 6:30 p.m. boxes of costume jewelry were

Crab feed will help fund EC Grad Night

STAFF REPORT

KENSINGTON — The El Cerrito High School Grad Night Committee will host a crab-feed fund-raiser on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Kensington Youth Hut. The evening opens with a no-host bar at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The price is \$35 per person.

Seating is limited and buying tickets in advance is recommended. For tickets contact Vicki Berndt at vberndt@comcast.net or 510-525-0644.

The proceeds of the crab feed

will go to fund Grad Night, an annual event planned by parents as a gift to the senior class, Berndt said.

Each year parents transform the gym along a theme that is kept a secret until a public preview a couple of days before the party.

Grad Nights are months in the planning, Berndt said. This year's committee started in October 2003. Another fund-raising event will be a casino night on March 20 featuring a raffle with cash prizes.

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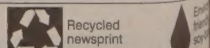
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Neighbors

Couple marks 30 years, but still can't get married

HERE'S A VALENTINE'S story. It's about a Berkeley couple who have been together for 30 years.

Their names are Jerry Rodgers and Karl Reeh. Back in 1974, Jerry was teaching high school English in Antioch, and Karl was a library administrator in San Mateo.

They'd noticed each other at gay discussion groups, but both were too shy to make the first move.

One night, Karl decided to go to a local bar. Jerry happened to be standing outside. They can't remember who broke the ice, but they started talking. And talking. And talking. "We never did get inside the bar that night," says Karl.

Karl was attracted by the way Jerry stood up for his beliefs. Jerry was attracted by Karl's commitment to "leaving the land a little better than you found it."

They discovered that they'd both served in the Army in West Germany at about the same time: Karl in the regular Army and Jerry in Army intelligence. After his discharge, Karl went on to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia.

Within two weeks, Karl moved into Jerry's house. Within a month, Jerry took him down to Watsonville to have Thanksgiving dinner with his parents.

"My dad was very traditional, so although he really liked Karl, he had a hard time accepting our relationship," says Jerry. "But my mom realized right away he was the perfect one for me. She called him 'my third son,' which was really poignant because her original third son, my little brother Harold, was killed in a car crash when he was only 18."

In 1979 they decided to go into business together, starting a landscaping firm, Rake's Progress. In 1989, in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake, they helped organize their neighbors into one of Berkeley's most effective crime/disaster prevention groups.

"There's not a single person on this block we don't know," says Jerry. "And their pets, too. We all look out for each other. If somebody goes on vacation, everyone else looks after their house. We feed each others' pets and pick up each other's



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

kids from school when their parents are running late at work."

Through a series of potlucks and bake sales, the neighborhood raised \$5,000 to buy emergency equipment, including stretchers, back braces, antibiotics and a portable generator. The supplies are squirreled away in strategic locations in people's back yards.

Last July, Karl and Jerry received a domestic partners certificate from the state of California. But it's not the same thing as a marriage license, and they resent that.

"It's second-class citizenship, no matter what they say," says Jerry. "Karl and I pay taxes, like everyone else. We both served our country. We're both contributing members of our community. But we have to struggle for things that straight people take for granted, from visiting rights in the hospital to inheritance rights after death. It's not fair."

Well, I'm probably the least qualified person in America to comment on gay marriage, since I'm neither married nor gay. But for me, it's a no-brainer. If, as most religions teach us, every human being is a child of God, then it's wrong to punish them for simply being the way God made them.

It's also bad public policy. We should be encouraging stable long-term relationships, not making it harder for them. But mostly, I have a human reaction. It's so hard to find love in this sad, sad world. If someone is lucky enough to find it, I say, more power to 'em.

So whatever your sexual orientation — straight, gay, or somewhere in between — I hope you're with someone you love tomorrow. And if not, I hope you find that special someone soon.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.



PINEWOOD WINNERS from Albany Cub Scout Pack 3, from left to right: Chris Pirkle (third place), Tyler Prince (second) and Teddy Demott-Garfield (first).

CONTRIBUTED

— Staff report

From here to eternity — or Jersey at the least



ROBERT MENZIMER
Life is a Movie

seashells by the seashore would start to seem not only pronounceable, but economically viable. Sandy would howl with laughter when he'd spot me tottering on the edge of our rooftop in the driving rain, tangled in Christmas lights, and then invite us over for latkes, to which I'd shout that eating his latkes wasn't necessarily any safer than dangling from my roof, 20 feet over the impatiens bed.

We'd eat dinner at their house, they'd eat dinner at our ours, we'd all eat dinner any place on Solano Avenue that

would still let us in the door. We laughed, we cried, sometimes not even in the same sentence. And always, we'd go to the movies.

Which brings me back to the Oscars.

We get together with Sandy and Catherine at our house every year for "The Movies" biggest night, hauling in from Solano Avenue boxes of fancy pizza and bottles of somewhat less fancy wine. Sandy and I make so much noise, the kids flee to the TV upstairs, which means more pizza for those of us who stay downstairs. We watch the stars laugh at the podium and cry on any nearby shoulder, including the one attached to Barbara Walters. At least we used to.

But last summer, Sandy's job took them to New Jersey; here come the Oscars at the

end of the month, and we're going to have to watch the whole thing with only Bill Murray, Charlize Theron and a bunch of hairy Hobbits.

Sometimes, I still feel like it's the blistering day in June when the moving van pulled away, and I'm standing, stunned, in Sandy and Catherine's empty kitchen.

That's how life is, I know, but I'm not sure I would have felt this way if the situation were playing out on our street across the Bay in the place with the pointy building, the famous bread, and the football team that couldn't lose.

And that's why the Oscars make me think about New Jersey.

Robert Menzimer is an Albany writer. Reach him at lifeisamovie@pacbell.net.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Library plan raises interesting questions

EL CERRITO needs a new library. The 1950s-era building that now houses the library has become too small for all the people who want to use it. It's generally agreed that it needs a new home.

As cheerful as the current library is — and it's difficult for a book-filled space not to be cheerful — visitors to the building at 6510 Stockton Ave. can see that a new building with more space would be a good thing.

More and more patrons are using the El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, according to the branch librarian, Laura Martinengo. The old building is "filled to the brims" and its roof leaks.

More and more patrons are using the El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, according to the branch librarian, Laura Martinengo. The old building is "filled to the brims" and its roof leaks.

Martinengo can list the things a bigger El Cerrito Library could accommodate. There could be a meeting room, a place to have programs, more space for children's storytimes and places to store more materials.

Before the city now is an innovative idea from a Berkeley-based company, Concrete Action LLC, one of whose principals, Liz Grossman, is an El Cerrito resident. The other is Lisa Thomas, a Contra Costa County resident who has a nonprofit documentary production company.

At a recent study session, the Planning Commission gave a thumbs-up to initial designs for a building the company has proposed, which would place library space within a four-story development that also includes 28 residential units and commercial space.

Talk about mixed-use — the combination of a community amenity located inside a commercial and residential building is different, to say the least. And it's intriguing.

On the plus side, there's the idea of a brand-new, water-tight space for library books, programs and patrons. The library in the new building could be up to 18,000 square feet: 10,000 more than the current branch.

There's also the thought that if it works out well, it could be a model for other such projects in this and other cities. It could be another point of distinction for El Cerrito.

And then there are the lucky people who would live in the building. That's a delicious idea to the average book fanatic. (It also gives rise to a whimsical fantasy: avid readers padding downstairs from their apartments in their pajamas in response to a sudden attack of haven't-got-a-thing-to-read.)

There are some concerns about the project offering enough parking. And at least one critic has reservations about combining civic and private functions within the same building.

The parking concern must be evaluated carefully, but is probably easier to address than the more philosophical idea of whether a public library should share space with commercial and residential uses.

Combining a library with other uses is a concept that requires the community to rethink what it wants its library to be, and could be debated endlessly.

But there are practical reasons for approving this project and for seeing it in a positive light.

As City Manager Scott Hanin pointed out, this idea is creative, and could be a less expensive way for the city to get a library sooner than it otherwise would.

Both creativity and frugality are needed as cities seek to add amenities without going broke. This project looks like it combines both.

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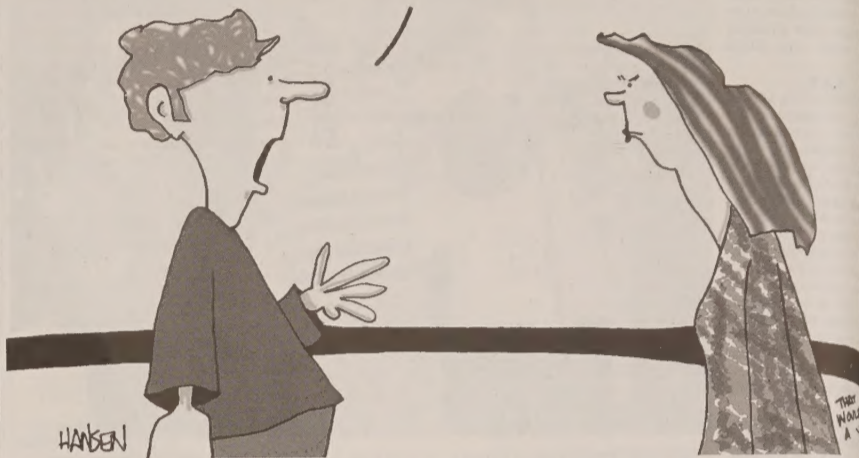
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JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

IF WE GOT MARRIED ON VALENTINE'S DAY
AND I FORGOT OUR ANNIVERSARY,
WOULD I BE IN DOUBLE TROUBLE?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another tree view

Recently, my 6-year-old daughter's class went on a field trip to plant trees in anticipation of Arbor Day. This inspired me to respond to the letter by Glenn Davis, "A litigation magnet" (Jan. 30), and weigh in on the views vs. trees debate.

I do not understand the logic of claiming that El Cerrito should adopt the Tiburon tree ordinance. El Cerrito and Tiburon have totally different demographics and geography and, therefore, different perspectives.

The per capita income of Tiburon is about double that of El Cerrito, while its population is about one third. More than 90 percent of the Tiburon population is white, while El Cerrito is a very diverse community.

The location and topography of Tiburon and El Cerrito are very different. I am in no way claiming that Tiburon's one-sided tree ordinance is appropriate for any community. However, the substantial wealth in that city may have been instrumental in allowing some powerful interests to push the ordinance through.

One would think that it would be better to adopt the policies of cities similar and close by to El Cerrito. Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Kensington and Richmond come to mind. But Davis and a few like-minded hill dwellers insist that a policy that favors views over trees is best for the 23,000 residents of El Cerrito. I don't think they have made a reasonable argument for this.

It is also my layman's opinion that they have no grounds to claim that a right to a view has priority over the right to plant trees on one's property. The repercussions of such an ordinance are even more troublesome, given the fact that for years the city has neglected to plant trees in public spaces.

I hope El Cerrito finds a more suitable resolution to this debate so that this very contentious issue does not have to be resolved in the courts. Yes, ironically it is Davis' proposal that would result in a flood of legal action pinning neighbor against neighbor and the city of El Cerrito against its residents.

Meanwhile, it is nice to know that at least school children are planting trees in El Cerrito these days.

Peter Rozo
El Cerrito

A vote for children

I'm writing this letter in hopes voters will support Measure J on March 2.

I have two daughters attending our local elementary school. They have fabulous teachers, wonderful learning materials, an energetic principal, and small class sizes. They're fortunate to attend school in such a wonderful district.

Measure J is a five-year parcel tax costing property owners an average of \$75 per year. Most importantly, Measure J has an accountability component to ensure taxpayers' dollars go to protect small class sizes, retain and recruit qualified teachers and counselors, and provide needed instructional material.

Measure J also exempts all seniors over 65 who apply. With the budget crisis in Sacramento, it's critical we use our local tax dollars to maintain essential school programs and positions.

When skeptics claim the district and board can't be trusted or they'll misspend the money, I'd like to remind them the district's received a positive certification from the state for its budget for the last 10 years.

As a father and a school board member, I'm happy to support a measure that's conservative, fair, limited in duration, and intended to sustain core academic programs.

A vote for Measure J is a vote for our community's children.

Charles T. Ramsey
El Cerrito

* Ramsey is a trustee of the West Contra Costa school district.

Save W. County education

The children of West County are in trouble. The West Contra Costa school district forecasts an operating deficit of \$23.6 million for next year due to massive decreases in state funding. To survive, the district will have to cut essential programs.

Measure J, a parcel tax on the March 2 ballot, can save the most important programs. If it passes with a two-thirds vote, a tax on improved property equal to 6.8 cents per square foot will raise \$7.5 million annually for 5 years.

Measure J funds can only be used for: maintaining reduced class sizes for the youngest students; purchasing text books and teaching materials; enhancing core subjects, including reading, writing, math and science; attracting and retaining qualified teachers, counselors and aides; and restoring the custodial staff that keeps bathrooms and other school-site facilities clean.

Regular independent audits and a separate accounting of the school district's budget will assure the funds are well spent. Seniors over 65 can claim an exemption.

Let's invest our tax dollars locally and assure that our children can have a quality education and that chance they need to be successful.

Helen Bean
Kensington

Bean is the co-president of Kensington Hilltop School's PTA.

View Ordinance is needed

In the Jan. 23 Viewpoint, the authors, representing Friends of El Cerrito Trees, state their opposition to an El Cerrito view ordinance. They attempt to build a case with threats of potential legal costs and constitutionality issues.

This is a smoke screen for their belief that a group of residents want protection for their property "without regard to the losses this means for their neighbors or to the whole city," which maligns the intentions of those who have lost their views over the years. It implies Bay views cannot be maintained in El Cerrito without causing irreversible loss of trees. nonsense.

Trees that have grown to such an extent they block sunlight and views from neighboring properties can be modified by thinning, trimming, and windowing,

as provided for in the current and previous versions of the city's tree/view ordinance. If tree removal's the only way to save views, replacement by new, more appropriate plantings would be required.

The writers' assertion that Bay views provide no public benefit is misleading. Homes with Bay views command higher prices and are assessed higher property taxes, which benefit the entire community.

Although our city has no shoreline, major industry, museums, or other attractions other cities provide, it offers standing panoramic views of natural beauty and world-renowned landmarks to potential homeowners. Allowing views to be lost through uncontrolled growth is analogous to covering a beautiful work of art so that no one enjoys it.

The urban forest plan they propose would set parameters for maintenance and pruning of trees on public property but no controls or restrictions on what should be planted on private property. There would be no legal means of preventing planting of eucalyptus, Monterey pine or other tall, fast-growing trees on one's own property.

Berkeley, Oakland, Tiburon, San Francisco and many other California cities have ordinances attempting to balance protection of views and trees and giving residents lines and recourse to neighbors who are unable to resolve their issues. Our needs to continue to provide the same for its residents.

Faye L. Jaime
El Cerrito

Competing concepts

At the Feb. 3 "Visioning Workshop" the Golden Gate Fields property, owned by the city of Albany, two competing concepts were presented, one by the Sierra Club/CESP group and one by the newly-formed Albany Waterfront Association (AWC).

The former envisioned commercial development along the freeway and Codornices Creek/marsh area, while the latter purchase of the 108-acre racetrack property. (Incidentally, a much smaller piece of racetrack property on Gilman Street recently sold for \$500,000 per acre — do the arithmetic.)

The AWC plan accepts the racetrack remaining, and proposes development to the west of the racetrack, avoiding development of wetlands, with about 16 acres of park and trails along the shoreline.

The advantages of the AWC plan are obvious: The track owners would have commercial use where it would be successful, and in return, the city would have badly needed parks now, not 20 or 30 years hence.

Further, the AWC plan would be paid for with public money and would not require floating a huge bond to finance it — a bond our children and grandchildren would be paying for.

As we all know, the politicians in Washington and Sacramento are burdening our future generations with ever-increasing public debt, all the while knowing these same taxpayers will have to finance the retirement of "baby boomer" generation.

If our purpose is to do something for future generations, I know we will thank us for not saddling them with even more unnecessary debt.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Awards can help lead readers to great children's books

note of the week:
fact, isn't it a joy — there
a greater one — to
new book, a living book,
know it will remain with
life lasts"
Katherine Mansfield, au-
1888-1925



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

RECENTLY FOUND myself
pondering about the Calde-
cot and Newbery children's
awards, so I decided to do
research.
I found the history of the
awards on the American Library
Association Web site, as well as
the award-winning
going back to the first
in the case of the Newbery
this was in 1922, when
G. Melcher's proposal
award for the most dis-
tinguished American children's
published in the previous
named after an English
seller, John Newbery, was

accepted by the ALA board. Ac-
cording to the Web site, this
made it the first children's book
award in the world, with its pur-
pose described as: "To encour-
age original creative work in the
field of books for children. To
emphasize to the public that
contributions to the literature for
children deserve similar recogni-
tion to poetry, plays, or novels.
To give those librarians, who
make it their life work to serve
children's reading interests, an
opportunity to encourage good
writing in the field."

The first Newbery Award

book was "The Story of
Mankind" by Hendrik Willem
Van Loon, and it was chosen by
what is now called the Associa-
tion for Library Service to Chil-
dren, part of ALA. I looked over
the list to see how many of the
books I had read — either to
myself or to my children — and
was impressed by the longevity
of many of these titles. Books
like Madeline L'Engle's "A Wrin-
kle in Time" (1963), Elizabeth
George Speare's "Witch on
Blackbird Pond" (1959) and Mil-
dred Taylor's "Roll of Thunder,
Hear My Cry" (1977) are still
popular today.

Melcher also initiated The
Caldecott Medal, and the first
one was given in 1938 to "Ani-
mals of the Bible, A Picture
Book," illustrated by Dorothy P.
Lathrop. This medal is "awarded
to the artist of the most distin-
guished American Picture Book
for Children published in the

United States during the preced-
ing year." I reviewed that list,
too, and I realized I had read
many of them to my children,
and I even own quite a few. I
also noticed that several of the
books I love didn't actually re-
ceive the award, but instead are
called "honor books," which
means they didn't come in first.
"Alexander and the Wind-Up
Mouse" by Leo Lionni (1970),
"Blueberries for Sal" by Robert
McCloskey (1949) and "Witch
with Me" by Marie Hall Ets
(1956) all fall into this category.

There are an abundance of
children's book awards. Other
examples include Great Britain's
Kate Greenaway Medal, given to
an illustrator, and the Carnegie
Medal, for children's book au-
thors. The Coretta Scott King
awards are sponsored by the
ALA's Social Responsibilities
Round Table, and each year are
given to an African-American

author and an African-American
illustrator. There are lots of ways
to choose a book for a child.
Looking to see if it has won an
award of some kind is one way
and can indicate a book worth
considering. But it is even more
important to trust one's own
opinion — and the only way to
really know is to read it!

READER REVIEW: This
week's review is from Claire and
the book is Dan Brown's "Angels
& Demons." Claire says this
book is about "a scholar who
uses symbols and signs in works
of Bernini in an attempt to save

the Vatican." One word she
would use to describe it is "excit-
ing" and she recommends it be-
cause "it is very well-written and
moves quickly."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein
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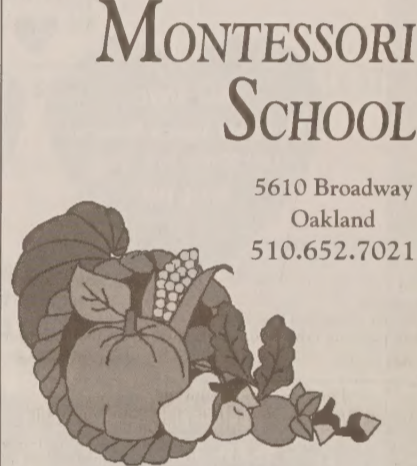
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4 p.m. People who help for two
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teers also needed on the day
of the sale to set-up from 8 a.m. to
12 p.m. and to work 2-3 hour shifts
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p.m. and is especially appreciated.
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2, April 6, May 4 and June 1.

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■■■■
Melody Chavis, author of
"Meena, Heroine of Afghanistan:
The Martyr Who Founded
RAWA, the Revolutionary Asso-

ciation of the Women of
Afghanistan," will appear at a
reading and discussion of her
book at the El Cerrito Library
on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 7 to 8
p.m. Chavis will talk about
Meena, other women's lives, and
the current situation in
Afghanistan. Her talk will include
slides of RAWA's projects taken
while traveling in the region.

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mation, call 510-526-7512.

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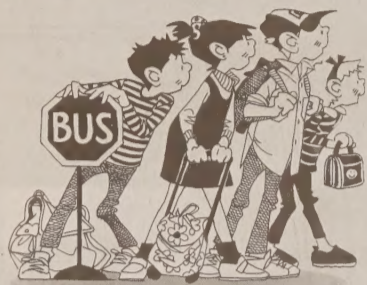
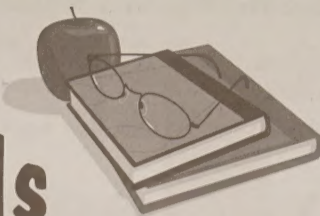
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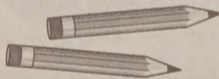
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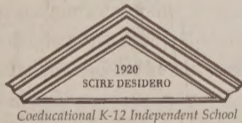
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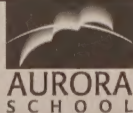
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FROM PAGE A1

...I'm not sure who would be paying the expenses. ...I'm not sure why the city had to pay for the (utility) lines, when the contractor should have been to pay for lines."

Whittaker blamed the added on shallow utility lines and the difficulty building dis-access ramps for the park rooms and other changes at the site.

Whittaker explained that the city is responsible for all of the changes because they were not written into the original contract.

The most expensive change, replacing the Portland Avenue sidewalk with one 8 feet wide, "eliminating" numerous trees," his report said. Some of the money was appropriated to pay for the replacement of a hazardous Monterey pine tree with Monterey cypress.

Other changes to the project were to be problems encountered by the contractor. For example, \$8,049 was appropriated to place water services to the child care center and Veterinary Memorial building because existing lines were too shallow.

According to a report Whittaker wrote, More than \$22,000 was appropriated to replace an old feed to the tennis courts with shallow existing utility and nearly \$12,000 was appropriated to reimburse an architect to work with the contractor to resolve conflicts between the requirements and construction requirements.

No penalties have been sought, said Whittaker, because Grade Tech encountered different circumstances, it doesn't really hold water," Whittaker said. "They can't be responsible for work that's not in the plans ... we don't get a free ride in that sense."

Councilman Allan Maris agreed and said the project's estimated cost has come out lower than the city originally expected. "I don't think we're really approving any bills yet," Maris said. "I will look at it in more detail to see what seems to be covered by the contract and not covered by the contract, so I'll pursue that."

Grade Tech Inc. president Sam Rivinius said the contract clause that places the responsibility on him to pay for unforeseen difficulties was illegal and unenforceable and blamed the city for asking for the changes. "There's no such thing as a contract that puts all the liability on the contractor," Rivinius said. "For all things that could happen, that might happen, that are unforeseen — and he (the contractor) has to fix it at his cost — that's not a reasonable agreement."

Good, who lives across the street from the park, said he had seen few workers at the site and was unsatisfied by the explanations. "Whittaker (is) probably totally wrong and that troubles me ... I'm suspicious of the whole thing. I'm suspicious of how things should be. It was presented in a nice friendly fashion but I'm not satisfied with his explanations."

Grade Tech Inc. started the park's "phase I" improvements last June and the work was expected to be completed in October.

No penalties have been sought, said Whittaker, because Grade Tech encountered different circumstances, it doesn't really hold water," Whittaker said. "They can't be responsible for work that's not in the plans ... we don't get a free ride in that sense."

culties from the beginning of the project. For example, the city gave Grade Tech 28 extra days because it had to replace the shallow water lines.

The changes and delays moved the work into the rainy season, giving the contractor 34 "unworkable days due to rain or excessively wet site conditions," Whittaker wrote in his report.

Whittaker expected the new playground area to open by the end of next week and the new grass — which encompasses most of the park — to open to the public by this June. The other renovations include new irrigation, drainage, walkways and landscaping. Memorial Park is located at Portland and Pomona avenues.

"I'm pretty happy with the way the park is starting to look," Maris said. "I guess I was frustrated by the delays but unfortunately they seem to happen, it's a natural part of doing anything, any kind of construction project. I don't think I'm upset as Robert is or was at the last (council) meeting."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Library

FROM PAGE A1

Commercial space would comprise 2,000 and 4,000 square feet and the library could be up to 18,000 square feet. The current El Cerrito Library is almost 8,000 square feet.

El Cerrito Branch librarian Laura Martinengo came out in favor of the project, though she said questions needed to be answered, particularly about parking requirements.

She said attendance is growing at the 1950s-era El Cerrito Library building, located at 6510 Stockton Ave., space is tight and the building's roof leaks.

"Everything is kind of filled to the brims," she said. "So this (project) would give us more room to grow and expand and maybe have a meeting room and places to have programs. And we'd be able to have more kids for story times and more materials, that kind of thing."

The Planning Commission is scheduled to decide whether to grant a use permit for the building in early March. In the meantime, it will go before the design review board on Feb. 18 for a recommendation that will go to the planning commission.

Planning manager Carman said the proposal will be considered under the city's "incentives" program whereby the city's zoning laws are given more flexibility if the project is found to enhance the city's quality of life.

The quality of life criterion is listed in the city's municipal code and includes exceptional architecture, housing for people with special needs and "interior spaces which are accessible, useful and beneficial to the public."

Concrete Action has asked for two exceptions to the zoning code, regarding parking and height. The concept plan offers 50 parking spaces, when the city requires 80 to 90 spaces. The building is estimated to be between 50 to 55 feet, when the height limit is 35 feet.

Members of the planning commission appeared to support the mixed use/library concept at their Feb. 4 meeting, which was de-

signed to give feedback so the developer can make appropriate changes to the plans.

Commissioner Doug Mansel said it was a great location for a library; Kathleen McKinley said the city should not adhere to an outdated model in which public buildings can only stand by themselves.

"I do think we have to be open to carefully combining some civic facilities with other uses, especially when dealing with urban infill," McKinley said.

However, resident Grace MacNeill told the commission she didn't think it was appropriate to mix city or county buildings with private facilities.

"A library needs to be appealing and open," said MacNeill, the president of the Friends of the El Cerrito Library fund-raising group. "If it can't stand by itself, it should be a part of a community building, like the Albany Library."

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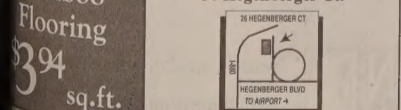


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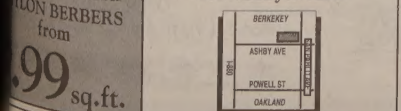
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High schoolers ill-prepared, schools chief says

By Suzanne Pardington
STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO — Saying California has failed to educate some high school students as well as it can, state schools chief Jack O'Connell called Wednesday for "tough, roll-up-your-sleeves measures" to combat low student achievement in high schools.

"Sadly, the majority of California's 1.7 million high school students simply are not today reach-

ing the academic levels that are needed for us to be able to call them a success story — not in the workplace, not in college and not even to be effective citizens in this democracy," he said.

O'Connell, a former legislator who is beginning his second year as the elected state Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced his top priorities for the coming year in his first "State of Education" speech.

East Bay school administrators agreed more attention should be focused on high schools, though they say they already are trying to improve them.

In addition to improving high schools, O'Connell wants to curtail state-required paperwork and streamline student testing.

Overall, schools are progressing, and the state should not depart dramatically from its current course of setting high academic

goals, testing students on their progress and intervening in schools that fail to improve, he said.

But high schools have not kept pace with the steady gains in elementary and middle schools. Only 10 percent of high schools have met the state's goal of attaining an 800 score on the Academic Performance Index, a scale from 200 to 1,000.

Resign

FROM PAGE A1

Parks commissioner Ken Lerch said last week he was surprised to learn Tobia was asked to resign.

"I thought he was obviously very dedicated. I thought he was smart, he obviously had a very clear purpose of what he thought he wanted to accomplish," said Lerch, who has been with the commission for less than a year. "I think everything he did was in the best interests of the city."

According to Tobia, Potter called him Jan. 27, giving him the options of resigning or having his participation become the subject of council discussion. She refused to tell him why the issue was going to be raised, according to Tobia's resignation letter.

Tobia said he believes he was pressured off the commission because of his staunch environmental advocacy, particularly his push for the council to adopt and spend money on an urban forest plan to manage the growth of city trees.

Mayor Leticia Moore disagreed with that notion and said that Tobia did know the real reason, but she refused to elaborate.

"I find it hard to believe that he doesn't know why an issue was raised about reviewing his appointment," she said. "Because there have been concerns raised before, and I believe people talked to him about their concerns before."

She added: "I also feel very strongly the council and city staff should not be complaining about one of our board or commission members past or present so that it becomes gossip in the community or it becomes information in

the (news)paper."

The city's boards and commissions comprise volunteers who provide recommendations to the council on a variety of issues. Council members appoint commissioners and have the right to dismiss them.

City Clerk Linda Giddings said most commissioners are allowed to finish their terms. In 20 years, she recalled only one person dismissed by the council. Tobia's term is scheduled to end in January 2007.

The council's action prompted questions from Loubal during a Feb. 2 public comment session about whether the council discussed removing Tobia at its Jan. 5 meeting, potentially violating the state's open meeting law, the Brown Act.

Loubal said she believes that three council members agreed Jan. 5 that Tobia should be removed, before agendizing it. With few exceptions, the Brown Act says no

discussion or action is permitted on items unless posted on a meeting agenda. The agenda topic that night was "interviews for applicants for commission/board vacancies ..."

No minutes exist for the discussion before the Jan. 5 regular council meeting, Giddings said.

Potter and city attorney Janet Coleson were quick to deny that the council discussed Tobia's status and said city officials take pains to follow the Brown Act.

"I take this stuff very seriously, and I don't think people should be making allegations and statements when they know they're not the case," Coleson said.

Added Potter: "(City) staff and council are constantly cognizant of the Brown Act and don't enter into gray areas." Potter deferred other questions to Moore.

Moore, Loubal and Coleson all missed the Jan. 5 meeting.

The council is scheduled to accept Tobia's letter of resignation

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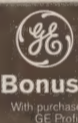
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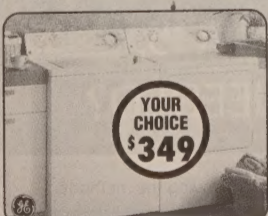
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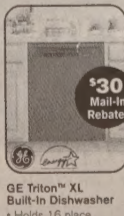
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Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairion, The Piedmonter

Friday, February 13, 2004 ☆ Section B



Architectural treasure graces Piedmont's Muir Avenue

DENNIS EVANOSKY

When Oakland architect Ray Keefe designed and built a square-foot Tudor Revival home at 35 Muir Ave. in Piedmont, he was especially remembering his Period Revival-style commercial buildings and his work in Oakland's

Lakeshore area, according to Piedmont historian Gail Lombardi. A year before he designed 35 Muir Ave., Keefe began developing five homes on a Piedmont cul-de-sac that bears his name: Keefe Court. In 1930, he designed 770 Wesley Way in Oakland for the Leimert Realty Company. The building — owned by Ken Betts and

home to his company — is popularly known as the "Baskin Robbins building." According to the plans for 770 Wesley Way, Keefe worked nearby with offices at 3281 Lakeshore Ave. He also lived in the area: first on Newton Avenue and later on Santa Ray Avenue. When Keefe turned his attention to 35 Muir Ave., he applied his

Real Estate Spotlight:

Traditional Piedmont home has new kitchen



THE ELEGANT AMBIANCE of 61 La Salle Ave. in Piedmont is Monterey Colonial. The beautifully-deetailed home was built in the 1950s and the property has a very traditional feel. The gracious entry hall features an elegant staircase and classic colonial windows. The dining and living rooms have fabulous moulding detail, custom lighting and welcoming bay windows. French doors open out to a charming patio and well landscaped back yard.

The updated kitchen includes a light-filled eating area. A cozy office or den with garden access completes the main floor. The upper level has three bedrooms and two bathrooms including a very large master suite. The lower level features a generous family room, laundry room and interior access to a spacious two-car garage. This home also enjoys a wonderful Piedmont location, close to a park and within easy walking distance to schools and transportation.

Price: \$1,435,000.

Listing agent: Mindy Scott at the Grubb Co., 510-339-0400, ext. 215.

talents and expertise to design a home with many of the hallmarks of a solid Tudor Revival home.

The home's exterior design includes such features as:

- six gables (one with a signature finial)
- striking half-timber

- diamond-paned glass
- an oriel with coats of arms; its windows framed with Tudor arches, hinting at his interior design
- protruding beams — called vigas
- pendants
- a slate roof

With these exterior features in place, Keefe promised an interior to delight the senses; he did not disappoint.

An impressive paneled two-story entryway greets the visitor.

See TUDOR, Page B2

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APPOINTMENT

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Joan Duffield/Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

APPOINTMENT

Oakland Hills \$1,780,000
5 Diablo Drive Sun 2 - 4:30 5 BR 5.5 BA New construction w/fabulous views! Gourmet kitchen, formal LR and DR. Interior courtyard.
David E/Carol B/Claudia B. 510.339.4700

APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$1,495,000
2245 Glen Ave Sun 2 - 4:30 4 BR 3 BA Redone from the foundation up. Craftsman ambiance, huge rear yard, min to Gourmet Ghetto.
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700

APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$499,000
1820 Derby St. Sun 2 - 4 2 BR 1 BA Craftsman brown shingle with original woodwork. Spacious loft, attic, and basement.
Maura Allen 510.486.1495

APPOINTMENT

Oakland Hills \$699,000
20 Kingwood Rd Sun 2 - 4:30 3+ BR, 2.5 BA. Level in design, Bay views, Formal LR & DR, updated kitchen.
Jeffrey Neidelman 510.339.4700

APPOINTMENT

Rockridge \$815,000
6360 Roanoke Road Sun 2 - 4:30 4 BR 2.5 BA Rockridge contemporary. Formal dining, remodeled kitchen, family rm, private yard, Bay vu.
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700

APPOINTMENT

706 The Alameda \$799,000
Sun 1 - 4 4 BR 2 BA Thousand Oaks traditional! Deep lush garden. Formal dining plus eat-in kitchen!
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APPOINTMENT

East Lake/New Chinatown \$498,000
Sun 1 - 5 4 BR 2 BA Remod. bright duplex. HWF, lndr, yard, 1-car gar. Great owner occupancy/2 owners. VACANT.
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Berkeley \$485,000
1125 Channing Way Sun 2 - 5 3 BR 1 BA Handsome split-lvl craftsman. Hwd flrs, frpl with big kitchen & yard. Move-in condition.
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Maxwell park \$399,950
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APPOINTMENT

Lake Merritt \$389,000
Sun 1 - 4:30 2 BR 2 BA Just blocks to The Lake, this top floor condo has style: 2 master suites, FR, & a view!
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Berkeley \$910,000
2818 Prince St. Sun 1 - 5 4 BR 2 BA Charming Elmwood classic crafted in 1924 is beautifully updated. Deck & garden.
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APPOINTMENT

Orinda \$879,950
Sun 1 - 4 202 The Knoll 2+BR, 2.5BA Stunning Contemporary in Orindawoods. Dramatic kitchen/fam rm, updated baths.
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APPOINTMENT

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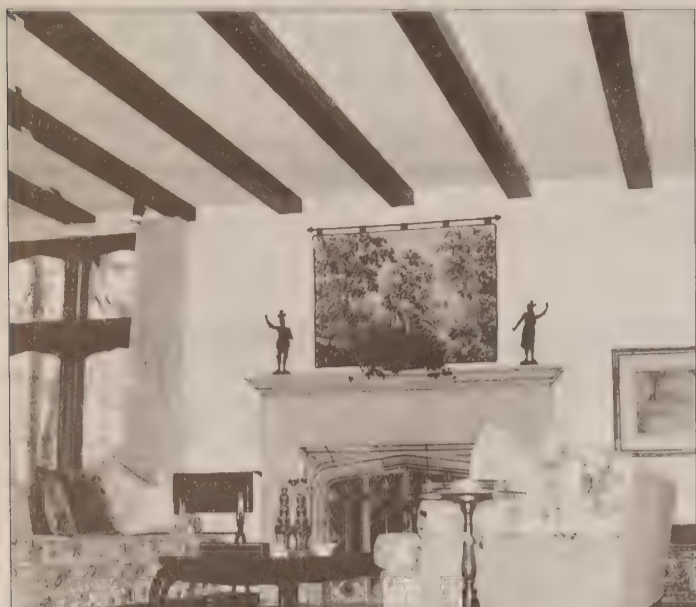
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THE HOME'S GRAND-SCALE living room has beamed ceilings, a stone fireplace and leaded-glass windows.

Tudor

FROM PAGE B1

A larger-than-life lantern draws the eye upward to the home's second floor. Keefer designed a graceful staircase accented with a triptych of diamond-paned windows that repeat the lantern's large scale.

Keefer hinted at the Tudor arch outside on the oriel, he repeated the arch inside in the doorways, the windows and the fireplace that accents the grand-scale living room. The home's interior spaces are rich with Keefer's craftsmanship.

The large-scale dramatic formal rooms have beamed ceilings, natural wood paneling, stone fireplaces and leaded-glass windows.

The home has a beautifully paneled library with a fireplace and a stone floor solarium that opens onto a patio and offers access to the home's two-car garage. The dining room's paneling, chandelier and impressive Tudor-arched windows distinguish this as a place for truly formal entertaining.

The recently remodeled kitchen is equipped with state-of-the-art appliances, a separate food-prep sink, a customized lighting system with pre-set options, a wet bar and granite counters.

A laundry room with a half bath adjoins the kitchen with a utility room nearby. A cozy well-lit breakfast nook provides a comfortable place to relax and enjoy and cup of coffee or a meal anytime.

The home's four spacious bedrooms include a two-room master suite with a fireplace and two baths. A separate wing — with a family room and wet bar — opens onto the garden. The home has four full and two half baths.

Extras include:
■ a three-zone heating system with two furnaces that were installed about five years ago
■ an intercom system
■ a wine cellar
■ a large attic with generous storage space.

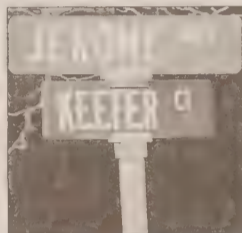
This architectural treasure is offered at \$3,750,000 by Georgia Cornell of Pacific Union, 510-338-1325 and Ted Normart of Prudential California Realty, 510-845-0211.



A STAIRCASE ACCENTED with a Tudor invention, the creation of a second floor and led to the construction of an impressive open staircase, a 16th century homes.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TUDOR REVIVAL STYLE PAGE 3.

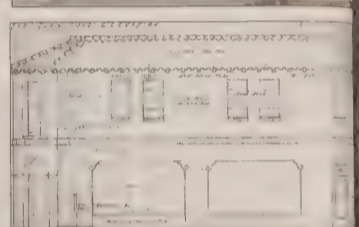
A look at architect Ray F. Keefer



DENNIS EVANOSKY

Ray F. Keefer is especially remembered for his Period Revival-style houses, commercial buildings and remodeling work in Oakland's Lakeshore area. He developed homes on a Piedmont cul-de-sac that bears his name: Keefer Court, above.

In 1930, he designed 770 Wesley Way in Oakland for the Leimert Realty Company. The building — owned by Ken Betts and home to his company — is shown above right and in Keefer's original plans, right.



THANKS TO KEN BETTS, GAIL LOMBARDI, DOUG DUFFIN, PAULINE EVANOSKY AND ANNE E. ZIEGLER FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY.

VITAL STATISTICS

What: Tudor Revival home at 35 Muir Ave in Piedmont

Size: Approximately 5,700 square-foot set on a 9,000 square-foot lot

Bedrooms: Four

Bathrooms: Four full and two half baths

Features: A Tudor Revival-style home designed by Ray F. Keefer. The home has dramatic formal rooms with beamed ceilings, natural wood paneling, stone fireplaces and leaded-glass windows. The kitchen has been recently remodeled with top-of-the-line appliances. The home's two-room master suite has a fireplace and his and her baths.

Price: \$3,750,000

Listing agents: Georgia Cornell, Pacific Union Real Estate, 510-338-1325; Ted Normart, Prudential California Realty, 510-845-0211

PG&E warns about utility bill scam

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

A new utility bill scam has hit the Bay Area and Pacific Gas and Electric Company is warning its customers to beware of telephone calls from anyone claiming to be from PG&E and asking for credit card information.

PG&E customers throughout the Bay Area have been caught up in this alleged telephone scam. As part of the scam, a caller claims to be from PG&E and threatens to shut off gas and electric service if

the customer does not provide a credit card number to pay the bill.

"We want to warn all of our customers about this fraudulent activity so that they do not become victims," said Tom Bottorff, PG&E's vice president of customer service.

Anyone who receives such a telephone call should hang up and then contact local law enforcement and PG&E immediately. PG&E customers who may have already been scammed and provided credit card

information are encouraged to report it immediately to their credit card company and law enforcement.

While PG&E offers several payment options, it does not accept credit cards. Not does the company call its customers and ask for any credit card information.

Customers may make payments at PG&E's customer service locations; pay their bill online at www.pge.com or by phone using an ATM card at 1-800-PGE-5000.

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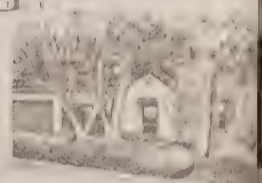
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PALMER HOUSE — once believed to be William Shakespeare's place — was constructed during the Great Rebuilding and serves the example of a Tudor-style county house.

Tudor Revival: Tapping to Elizabethan energy

DENNIS EVANOSKY
STAFF WRITER

and suburban) renewal of the 19th century phenomenon. In the reign of Elizabeth I, Harrison published his "Chronicles of England" in Holinshed's. In it he noted the Tudor passion for tearing down houses and building new ones. This Tudor-era construction became known as the "Great Rebuilding." Not unlike today's ex-

ecutives and blue-collar workers everyone from courtiers to cottagers yearned for home improvement in 16th and 17th century England.

Even for the poor cottager this meant a chimney and glazed windows for his hut. In larger homes of the period, people cooked and ate in the hall with a smoky fire on an open hearth; the smoke stayed in the hall, causing discomfort and

See REVIVAL, Page B4



ELIZABETH I POSES IN HER FINEST RAIMENT in the "Pelican Portrait" attributed to Nicholas Hilliard and painted about 1572. The Great Rebuilding began during her reign and inspired the Tudor Revival over 300 years later.

Time and death: East Bay funerary art

Visit to Oakland's
Mountain View Cemetery

one of three parts of the days of the pharaohs in ancient Egypt, urban cultures about the Western World have made special areas for remembering their dead. These sites have ranged from the monumental scale of the Great Pyramids; to modest stone grave markers of the 19th and 20th century cemeteries in the United States.

The East Bay has more than its share of great funerary art, both at the sites and crematoriums. In these sites contain notable architectural creations. In this part series, I shall explore the architectural features of many sites in various East Bay cemeteries.

the East Bay, historic funer-

ary sites include mid to late 19th century cemeteries, and early 20th century crematoriums and columbariums. We shall begin with one of the oldest and largest Bay Area cemeteries: Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery.

Mountain View Cemetery has been an important Oakland landmark for over 140 years. Located at the end of Piedmont Avenue, just north of Pleasant Valley Road. It is one of the oldest and most beautiful cemeteries in Northern California, and at over 200 acres, one of the largest in the entire Bay Area.

The Mountain View Cemetery Association was organized in December 1863 by a group of leading pioneer citizens of the East Bay; Jane Waer, the cemetery's first resident, was laid to rest in 1865. America's first great landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, designed

See WILSON, Page B4



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

There is a walking tour of Mountain View Cemetery tomorrow at 10 a.m. Meet inside the cemetery gates at the end of Piedmont Avenue to experience this Victorian-era jewel firsthand.

Sahdu works her magic

Return to October 2001
Number 379 in a series of true
experiences in real estate

We saw this week in Berkeley — with pleasure — a staging job done by Sahdu Mannell who has staged a number of houses for clients of our own. This time, however, it was not our listing but that of a colleague. So we hadn't seen the house in its "before" state; we were seeing it for the first time beautifully readied to be shown to agents and buyers.

The house looks wonderful all spanning clean and well decorated, but I was sorry to have missed knowing what it was like before the recent improvements. It's great fun to watch houses change, often dramatically, with painting and cleaning. But the frosting is the best part, when the stager rearranges, subtracts and/or adds furnishings.

Sahdu possesses a keen eye for color, scale and placement. She uses furniture, flowers and accessories to fine advantage, so successfully that I find myself gliding through houses she has staged focusing, I am sure, on precisely the pieces of the design she intended for me to see. There is never a jamb-up, a visual dead-end.

Instead I experience an easy flow from one room to the next with treats for my eye all along the way. Each of these treatments seems simple enough in itself, but when I stop to think about almost any one of them, I am impressed and delighted by Sahdu's brilliant execution.

This latest house is an unoccupied two-story Victorian with a

smallish parlor at the front and a formal dining room behind it, followed by a good-sized kitchen and half bath. Upstairs are a full bath and three bedrooms. As part of this job, Sahdu chose the interior paint colors, and after the painting and cleaning were complete, she brought in furnishings for all of the rooms.

She used things of her own and some that are ours. We keep for the use of our stagers a



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rooms. In the kitchen are my mom's wooden kitchen table and chairs covered with a fresh white cutwork cloth. And on top are laid leaf-shaped, green ceramic salad plates that my mom made in a ceramics class during the 1950s. Had I brought them home, they'd likely have remained hidden in a cupboard or packed away in the basement. But as fodder for our stagers, they are enjoyed over and over again.

Presented with something new, large or small, the stagers immediately imagine the possibilities for using it. Whatever the item, it will likely someday become a part of one of their tableaux. As with any artist, it is which pieces are put together and how the elements are arranged that become distinctively their own art.

In this house Sahdu used, as she often does, a number of wall hung mirrors, candles (taper and votive), also crisply ironed linens, and large, blowy bouquets.

Let-in-the-light sheer curtains hang at most of the freshly washed windows. Sahdu's the only stager I know who even stages closets. I always rush to open closet and cupboard doors to see what she's put inside this time.

See TARPOFF, Page B5

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For more info call Ehlers-Hardie 524-9888 x22 \$549,000



341 Washington Ave., Albany
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Revival

FROM PAGE B3

blackening the rafters. Once a chimney was added, the hall became a more comfortable place to dine. Tudor builders inserted a ceiling in place of the charred rafters and created an upper floor. Houses became more spacious, lighter, cleaner and more private.

The homes of the wealthy boasted forests of tall, decorative chimneys and huge windows. Cheap glass became available, and Elizabethans delighted in the material. The rich installed elaborate fireplace surrounds and square paneling; they decorated friezes and ceilings in strap work — patterns imitating interlaced leather straps.

Victorian-era and early 20th century architects and designers tapped into this energy when they imitated the Tudor style. Tudor Revival is another of the period revival styles of the late 19th and early 20th century. Other revival styles include Georgian, Spanish, Colonial and Classical.

The early 20th century was time of free borrowing of historical styles as more people could afford single-family houses and there was no real consensus about a modern residential architectural style. For this reason, houses in this period are sometimes lumped together as "period revival." Sometimes Tudor Revival homes are called Elizabethan or simply half-timbered houses.

Some Tudor Revival houses mimic humble medieval cottages. They may even include a false thatched roof. Other Tudor Revival homes borrow ideas from late medieval palaces with overlapping gables, parapets, and beautifully patterned brick- or stonework.

Architects and builders imitated medieval building techniques. In the Victorian-era, many Queen Anne and Stick-style houses were given

false half-timbering, which the designers applied to wall surfaces as decoration. They continued to use this popular exterior ornamentation when they built Tudor Revival homes for their clients.

- Some features of the style:
- Asymmetrical design
 - Bargeboards, also called a verge- or gableboards
 - Cladding: wall cladding; patterned brick; stone wall cladding
 - Chimneys: commonly placed in prominent locations on the front or side of the house; massive chimney; decorative, separate chimney pot for each flue; multiple shafts of the chimney itself, representing the number of flues contained within
 - Doorways: vertical plank doors
 - Entry: Tudor or flattened pointed arches in door and door surrounds; small tabs of cut stone may project into surrounding brickwork, giving a quoin-like effect
 - Exterior: front facade porches are generally either small or are entirely absent, side porches are frequent
 - Half-timbering (not structural, but decorative with stucco set into exposed wood framing). Half timbering was a characteristic of medieval buildings when the beams actually held the buildings in place; the spaces between the beams were filled with plaster.
 - Roof: steep gabled roofs; dominant front-facing gable; overlapping gables; cross gables; steeply pitched gable dormers
 - Window features: tall, narrow windows; small leaded glass windows; small multiple-paned windows; diamond-pane casement windows; rows (bands, strings) of three or more casement windows commonly located on or below the main gable or on one- or two-story bays; transoms; label moldering; oriels.

For more about Tudor Revival with splendid examples visit <http://lah.bfn.org/alarchsty/tud/index.html>

Wilson

FROM PAGE B3

gates. Olmsted is most famous for designing New York City's Central Park.

Within Mountain View Cemetery lies an impressive array of hundreds of individual monuments and crypts that run the gamut of styles that were popular in the 19th century. Here you will find, among others: Classical Greek temples, pyramids, Gothic adicula, obelisks and weeping angels.

Near the entrance gates stands the handsome, English parish Gothic-style Tower Chapel. Completed in 1938, it was built of red brick with white stone trim, just like its medieval predecessors.

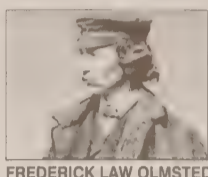
The list of prominent Pioneer-era East Bay residents who are buried within the confines of Mountain View Cemetery reads like a Who's Who of East Bay 19th century society. Among the famous persons interred here are:

- Charles Crocker (one of the Central Pacific Rail Road's Big Four)
- Dr. Samuel Merritt (for whom Lake Merritt is named)
- Enoch Pardee (an early mayor of Oakland), and his son George

See WILSON, Page B5



OAKLAND'S MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY: A view of "Millionaire's Row" including the Central Pacific Rail Road's Charles Crocker, Oakland's first millionaire Frederick William Deane, and Chocolate King Domingo Ghirardelli.



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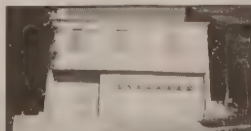
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 2943 Bayview Dr - \$540,000
 1414 Centre Ct - \$439,000
 1414 Clinton Av - \$561,000
 1414 El Sereno - \$448,000
 1414 Fair Haven Rd - \$590,000
 1414 Garfield Tr - \$625,000
 1414 Homewood Rd - \$657,000
 1414 Pacific Av - \$925,000
 1414 Park Av - \$740,000
 1414 Ludington Rd - \$610,000
 1414 Shorepoint 115 - \$237,000
 1414 Tahiti Ln - \$457,500

BAY AREA

1414 Jackson St - \$435,000
 1414 Pierce St #120 - \$295,000
 1414 Pierce St #2402 - \$325,000
 1414 Pierce St #321 - \$293,000
 1414 Pierce St #605 - \$355,000
 1414 Santa Fe Av - \$454,000

BERKELEY

1414 67th St - \$340,000
 1414 Ashby Av - \$350,000
 1414 Cedar St #3 - \$300,000
 1414 Cherry St - \$540,000
 1414 Cornell Av - \$255,000
 1414 Dwight Wy - \$420,000
 1414 Dwight Wy - \$567,500
 1414 Evelyn Av - \$795,000
 1414 Harper St - \$440,000
 1414 Haskell St - \$192,000
 1414 Juanita Wy - \$580,000

2736 Milvia St - \$515,000
 2915 Otis St - \$299,000
 1515 Oxford 3B - \$601,000
 2 Rosemont Av - \$483,500
 3028 Shattuck Av - \$470,000
 1153 The Alameda - \$593,000
 2016 Vine St - \$650,000
 1647 Virginia St - \$555,000

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6002 Barrett Av - \$465,000
 1238 Brewster Dr - \$650,000
 6730 Glen Mawr Av - \$552,000
 5709 Jordan Av - \$500,000
 1444 Liberty St - \$420,000
 1515 Liberty St - \$425,000
 5806 Ray St - \$539,000
 1905 Tapscott Av - \$585,000
 2400 Tulare Av - \$616,000

EL SOBRANTE

988 Allview Av - \$255,000
 437 Joan Vista St - \$214,500
 942 Kelvin Rd - \$375,000
 725 Santa Maria Rd - \$276,000
 4162 Santa Rita Rd - \$410,000
 5403 Sobrante Av - \$387,500

EMERYVILLE

1222 30th St - \$325,000
 1474 32nd St - \$263,000
 1129 54th St - \$535,000

See SALES, Page B6

Tarpoiff

FROM PAGE B3

It's never very much, just enough to emphasize the space inside when the doors are open: a couple of hat boxes, padded hangers, towels, and in old houses, one or two vintage dresses. Sahdu has even been known to stage an empty refrigerator, inside she'll put pretty bottles of water and perhaps, green or red peppers.

Sahdu's rooms are generally clear and calming, the details engaging. You want to stand around, just stay and look some more. She ably combines different styles — old and fine, newer and funky, childhood and classic. Just to keep the visitor on his toes, among these she intersperses an occasional wacky element.

In one bedroom is just such a surprise: a mock tea ceremony. Because it is unexpected in this Victorian setting, the sight jangles. And the shades of red used in the floor cushions and pillows — fuchsia, brick red, orange and bright fire engine red — most of us wouldn't combine, but they work! The punch — unexpected, great — is a lacquered tray set full central. It is blazing orange in color.

The color and the shape of this tray pack such a wallop that I am left with no choice but to look at it first before moving on to what else the room contains.

That is what good staging does: it guides the eye. The objective is not to cover up anything unfortunate (reputable stagers will not do this), but to move visitors through a house physically, visually and pleasurably.

Walking through this house makes me want to provide new materials for our stagers to use. I'd like more rugs, different chairs and lamps and pictures, would enjoy making available to Sahdu an ever changing feast of supplies from which to choose.

I frequently daydream about having a "lending library" of other people's goods, treasures that they have tucked away, aren't using, and would enjoy visiting at staged houses, as I do my mother's things. When I go to flea markets and as I peruse catalogs, I am on the lookout for further inventory.

Maybe I need to go into the estate sale business. That would be fun and would probably reveal some things we could put to good use.

Sahdu says that her favorite part of her job is seeing how different objects look in different settings. She likes the many possibilities of a single item, which is good because our stockpile is limited. She loves her job, as do all the stagers we know, and especially she enjoys the overall effect she has created when the job is done.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoiff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoiffandtalbert.com.

Wilson

FROM PAGE B4

Pardee (who became governor of California)

■ Henry Durant and Joseph Le Conte (the prominent UC Berkeley professors, who both had streets in Berkeley named after them)

■ Borax Smith (of Twenty Mule Team Borax fame)

■ Frederick Deiger (an early Oakland banker who built the Italianate Deiger Block in on Broadway in Old Downtown).

■ Josiah Stanford (the older brother of another CPRR Big Four Leland Stanford who founded Stanford University).

■ Francis K. Shattuck (an Oakland mayor and Berkeley founding father for whom Shattuck Avenue in downtown Berkeley was named).

In my next column, I will describe one of the most beautiful and beloved landmarks of historic funerary art ever built in the East Bay the Julia Morgan's Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.

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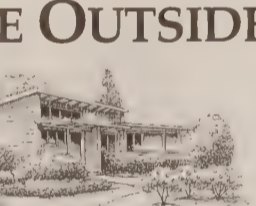
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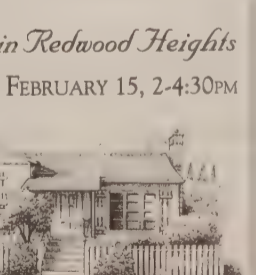
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Sales

FROM PAGE B5

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840 56th St - \$394,000
1251 66th St - \$403,000
1261 66th St - \$497,000
845 Brockhurst St - \$200,000
6363 Christie 2827 - \$493,000
106 Liquid Sugar - \$256,000

1 Woodside Glen Ct - \$949,000

KENSINGTON

211 Arlington Av - \$770,000
605 Canon Dr - \$871,000

OAKLAND

1952 100th Av - \$285,000
2363 103rd Av - \$290,000
1312 104th Av - \$370,000

2350 108th Av - \$265,000
555 10th 307 - \$305,000
655 12th 105 - \$343,000
2615 19th Av - \$390,000
2640 19th Av - \$325,000
830 19th St - \$380,000
554 25th St - \$420,000
809 26th St - \$250,000
1654 34th Av - \$318,000
415 36th St - \$440,000

492 37th St - \$443,000
2032 57th Av - \$245,000
685 58th St - \$380,000
1162 60th Av - \$251,000
2669 63rd Av - \$345,000
3520 64th Av - \$370,000
1817 73rd Av - \$475,000

See SALES, Page B8

Learn how to avoid dry rot, mildew, mold

■ Residential drainage systems focus of tomorrow's free seminar

TRUITT & WHITE

Water can be the nemesis for homeowners and builders alike. Improper drainage systems do the most damage.

Dry rot, mildew and mold which can result from the lack of or improper drainage are not only serious health hazards, but they are expensive and difficult to repair or eliminate.

Greg Casorso of Casorso

Construction specializes in drainage installations and solutions. He will present information on how to evaluate and implement effective drainage systems at a traditionally filled-to-capacity event tomorrow from 9 to 11 a.m.

Reservations are required and refreshments will be served. Call 510-649-2674 or register on-line at www.truittandwhite.com/seminars to reserve your space.

This popular seminar will be held at the Truitt and White Conference Room 1817 Second St. in Berkeley. For more information, call 510-841-0511.

Sweet Valentine!



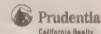
7560 Valentine Street, Oakland

Oh please be mine... Sweet Valentine!
My buyers did declare
(Of all the paperwork to come... blissfully unaware)
And so they signed... and signed... and signed
Another happy pair!
(represented the buyer)



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510-835-6026

www.prurealty.com/jackiecare



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Thanks Again



6152 Oceanview



5565 Masonic



5963 Manchester



5986 Buena Vista



1377 Trestle Glen



6001 Mazuela



4927 Proctor



5827 Amy

From Heidi

To the support of the community and the tremendous referral response which has enabled me to financially aid our local schools with over \$10,000 in contributions in 2003!

A sampling of my completed transactions within the last 12 months

REPRESENTED SELLER

5565 Masonic
6001 Mazuela
6875 Saroni
1377 Trestle Glen
6615 Elverton
5855 Heron
4927 Proctor
5986 Buena Vista
3018 Kingsland
6152 Oceanview

REPRESENTED BUYER

22 White Court
6333 Estates
5963 Manchester
5827 Amy
5811 Howell
901 35th
6803 Buckingham
1260 Clay St.
5499 Golden Gate
4238 23rd St., S.F.



And More

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E-Mail: HMarchesotti@comcast.net

Website: www.HomesByHeidi.com



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Montclair Village
2077 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94611

CAUTION!

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The GRUBB Co.

1628 Cedar Street, Berkeley
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 An absolutely stunning line custom remodel by Bennett Christopher. The bedroom retreat has French doors that open to a garden + second bedroom and remodeled bathroom. Landscaped garden with waterfall and garden. Impeccably designed kitchen! Unsurpassed quality. Offered at \$749,000



SUSIE SCHEVILL
OFFICE: 652.2133/444
sschevill@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM



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JEFF ROBERTS

Voicemail: 510.466.5446
jeff.roberts@prurealty.com

OPEN SUNDAY February 15th 2-4pm



Berkeley - \$389,000
2406A Tenth Street

Great for first time buyers! Not a condol! Charming brown shingle cottage. Very private and serene. Fenced yard 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 1,009 sq. ft. Built in 1941



Diane Sindel-Deutsche
Broker/Owner
(510) 406-6991
DianeDeutsche@aol.com

Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.
REALTORS

521-8181

523-1010



OPEN SAT & SUNDAY 2-4

2630 VISTA GRAND COURT, SAN LEANDRO. FABULOUS CUSTOM HOME! This home has 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Living room, formal dining room, all new granite countertops. This fine home boasts a super spacious great room with fireplace and wet bar. Large private patio, great for entertaining, has built-in brick BBQ. Asking \$879,000. Angela and David McIntyre, REALTORS, 510-773-7064.

1 EMBARCADERO WEST #247, OAKLAND, VIEW OF THE MARINA. Second floor unit with 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet and paint. \$235,000. Debra Gorman, 510-748-1127.

2945 RAWSON, OAKLAND. MAXWELL PARK BEAUTY! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, sunny formal dining, fireplace and great condition. Finished basement, large level lot and 2 car garage. \$469,000. Deb Graceffa, 510-459-7623.

477 E. LEWELLING BLVD., SAN LORENZO. ATTENTION BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS! Great buildable lot; try 5-10 units (size matters). Good commuter location, great resale. \$750,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.



OPEN SAT & SUNDAY 2-4

2817 OTIS DR., ALAMEDA. MEDITERRANEAN SPLIT LEVEL! Cute home has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with fireplace, dining room, private backyard. \$579,000. Troy Staten, 510-748-1125.

1336 CARRISON ST., BERKELEY. 2 HOUSES ON 1 LOT. Main house: charming Berkeley bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Kitchen & bath have been updated. 2nd house is a 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Shared yard with room for vegetable gardens. Owners live in one and rent the other for \$1,000/mo. \$550,000. Ty Welchhart, 510-748-1118.

2560 INTERNATIONAL BLVD., OAKLAND. COMMERCIAL RETAIL STORE FRONT. Plus a 2 bedroom unit on the 2nd story. Completely remodeled building with new kitchen, electrical, plumbing, painting, etc. \$795,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1111.

1619 - 46TH AVE., OAKLAND. 3 STUDIO UNITS. Great starter rental street parking and close to BART. \$349,000. Troy Staten, 510-748-1125.

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Sales@AlamedaRealEstate.com Gallagher and Lindsey

PIEDMONT, OAKLAND, BERKELEY & ALAMEDA

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



55 DIABLO DRIVE \$1,650,000
OAKLAND. Fabulous new Mediterranean w/spectacular views of SF & three bridges. Superior quality & finishes. 2 fireplaces, lavish master suite. 12 ft. ceilings, large decks for entertaining. Minutes from Montclair. Sheila Gallagher



2830 DERBY STREET \$819,000
BERKELEY. A wonderful 3BR/3BA brown shingle Craftsman oriented to the sunny garden! Plus rooms include: large sunlit family room, sunroom and studio in the garden. Helene Barkin



1046 CRAGMONT AVE. \$725,000
BERKELEY. Quiet North Berkeley neighborhood. Level-in access. Spacious & elegant. Living room w/fireplace, study, loft, den. 3BR/1.5BA. Updated eat-in kitchen, pantry, darkroom & level garden. Near College Ave. Susie Schevill



309 PALA AVENUE \$1,500,000
PIEDMONT. Incredibly wonderful family home in the center of Piedmont. Enjoy over 4,000 sq. ft., including a master suite with a view, family room off the kitchen and lovely sunny garden. Anian Pettit Tunney

1628 CEDAR STREET \$749,000
BERKELEY. Stunning top-of-the-line remodel in great North Berkeley location near Monterey Market & BART. 2BR/2BA including master suite, gourmet kitchen, formal dining room & fireplace. Garden w/ waterfall & studio. Susie Schevill



1056 NORWOOD AVENUE \$589,000
OAKLAND. Completely charming Crocker Highlands 2BR/1BA home. Random plank floors, updated kitchen, large, beautifully landscaped garden. Near shopping & public transportation. Judith Cain



6925 SHEPHERD CANYON RD. \$749,000
OAKLAND. A spacious 4+BR/3BA contemporary w/ remodeled bathrooms & kitchen of granite & stainless. Hardwood floors, two fireplaces, large master suite. Just minutes from Montclair Village amenities. Jill Carrigan

61 LASALLE AVENUE \$1,395,000
PIEDMONT. Beautifully detailed Monterey Colonial! This gracious home has elegant formal rooms, updated eat-in kitchen, sitting room/office, 3 spacious BR & rumpus room. Interior access from 2-car garage. Mindy Scott



2016 SAN ANTONIO AVE. \$965,000
ALAMEDA. Beautifully restored Victorian. Magnificent wood molding and French doors in grand, stately rooms coupled with modern foundation plumbing & electrical system. Ed Kuo



10 REATA PLACE \$739,000
OAKLAND. Just minutes to College Avenue shops & BART! This home offers great facility. Three spacious bedrooms and a family room off the kitchen. Level out to lovely garden. Great living room. Mary Merrick



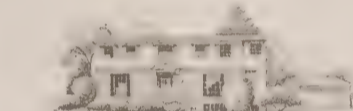
312 SUNSET ROAD \$535,000
Open Sat. & Sun. 2-4:30. ALAMEDA. A wonderful sunny one level home. Beautifully maintained. 3BR/2BA w/ upgrades. 2-car interior access garage. Covered location.. Close to beach, shops & transportation. Anne Van Dyke

4160 MOUNTAIN VIEW \$431,000
OAKLAND. Charming starter home. 2BR/1BA. Living room w/fireplace, formal dining room and hardwood floors. Spacious garden with deck and fruit trees offers great outdoor living in a woody setting. Helen Buty

PIEDMONT & OAKLAND - BY APPOINTMENT



SEAVIEW \$5,600,000
PIEDMONT. SF style & splendor in Piedmont! Enjoy the elegance of another era. Fabulous gourmet kitchen, remodeled master bedroom suite & stunning formal dining room. Anian Pettit Tunney



BAY VIEW COLONIAL \$1,250,000
Exquisite colonial on a beautiful lot. Sweeping Bay view. State of the art kitchen, fabulous master suite, party room & office. 4BR/2.5BA. Susanne Paul



ROCKRIDGE \$895,000
Handsome, spacious & convenient. New kitchen, family room, 4BR/2.5BA. Master suite. Landscaped garden. Close to BART, dining & great shopping. Paul Templeron

LASALLE ESTATES \$2,988,000
Elegance beyond measure. New traditional in LaSalle Estates. 5BR/5+BA, elevator, 3-car garage & breathtaking four bridge view. Great location. Debra J. Dryden

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,195,000
Very special traditional on a rare double lot in a great location. 4BR/3BA plus so many extras. Huge office, two-car garage. Simply beautiful! Katherine Cooper



HILLCREST ESTATES \$1,150,000
Spacious one-level quality home in Hillcrest Estates. 4BR, large level garden. Extra parcel included. Angela Wei Grubb

ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME \$2,495,000
Sensational one-of-a-kind home in popular Piedmont side of Montclair. Walls of glass, high ceilings & stunning living room. Sweeping SF views await you! Great attached 2nd unit apartment. Anian Pettit Tunney

MONTCLAIR \$965,000
Sophisticated 4BR/4BA designer showcase. State of the art kitchen w/center island, luxurious master retreat w/ spectacular Bay views, open floorplan, all on a corner lot w/ level garden. Dana Cohen



CLASSIC MEDITERRANEAN \$1,695,000
High-quality throughout, 4+BR/3.5BA, pecan floors, grand living room, open kitchen/family room. Beautiful stone & ironwork master w/views. Kurt Buchholz

ROMANTIC TUDOR \$895,000
Incredibly romantic Tudor style home in popular Upper Rockridge. Built in 1930 with all the architectural detail you love. Living room w/high ceilings, professionally landscaped gardens & "great room". Anian Pettit Tunney

MONTCLAIR \$749,000
Enjoy sweeping Bay views from the deck of this magnificently redesigned three plus bedroom, two bath home, beautifully situated in a park-like setting, with a sunny level garden. Ford/Plowright

HADDON HILL FOURPLEX \$729,000
A very special older building with original charm intact. Fireplace in two units and hardwood floors. Excellent rental history. Four one-bedroom units close to transportation and shopping. Carolyn Jones

TIMELESS ELEGANCE \$1,549,000
Claremont Pines traditional w/lovely views, garden & architectural details. Wonderful floor plan. Many extras. 4BR/4+BA + family room. Elizabeth Dickson



BUILDABLE LOTS \$689,000
Wonderful Piedmont side of Montclair lots. Each priced separately. Debra J. Dryden

SPACIOUS & BRIGHT \$359,000
Delightful sunny and spacious 2BR/2BA unit in a desirable building. Separate formal dining room, fireplace, new kitchen and appliances. Nancy Lehrkind

BERKELEY - BY APPOINTMENT



CLAREMONT ESTATE \$3,150,000
Exquisite gated & private estate in an exclusive area near the Claremont Hotel. 1.25 acres, tennis court, swimming pool, gracious lawns & gardens, meandering paths. Views of SF, Bay and bridges. Debra J. Dryden



HEART OF ELMWOOD \$600,000
Sweet Elmwood 2+BR/1.5BA Edwardian w/original charm. Hardwood floors, level garden. Perfectly located between UC Berkeley & Elmwood shops, movies, BART & restaurants. Carolyn Jones

BERKELEY LOT \$300,000
Build your new home in Park Hill! Beautiful Canyon and Tilden Park views from this private site. Survey and soils reports, available. Annie Walrand

BUILDABLE LOT \$199,900
Upslope Claremont Hills lot w/serene canyon views. Locate dinan neighborhood of million dollar properties. Diane Verducci

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OAKLAND, 94611

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3070 CLAREMONT AVENUE

BERKELEY, 94705

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MIDTOWN LOFTS



426 27TH STREET, OAKLAND

OPEN - SUNDAY 12-4:30. 20 condominiums of 18 different designs; Flats, Lofts and Townhouses. This unique new complex with Mediterranean appeal, offers spacious floorplans flooded with natural light, exciting architectural design, stylish finishes and a convenient location close to all the urban amenities of Lake Merritt, Piedmont Avenue and downtown Oakland. Helen Buty & Bertina Balestrieri

Offered from the mid \$400,000 - \$600,000

Sales

FROM PAGE B6

1970 81st Av - \$256,000
 2325 83rd Av - \$300,000
 1927 85th Av - \$250,000
 1132 86th Av - \$169,000
 1902 8th Av - \$305,000
 1126 91st Av - \$210,000
 2333 9th Av - \$415,000
 2302 Adeline - \$409,000
 4104 Alameda - \$321,000
 3921 Altamont - \$345,000
 9020 Birch - \$515,000
 2859 Brookdale - \$220,000
 12635 Brookpark - \$585,000
 6045 Buena Ventura - \$485,000
 320 Caldecott - \$335,000
 4620 Camden St - \$396,000
 336 Catron Dr - \$145,000

7045 Chabot Rd - \$865,000
 6216 Chelton Dr - \$710,000
 9529 Cherry St - \$274,000
 3461 Crane Wy - \$752,000
 9650 D St - \$340,000
 2262 East 15th St - \$325,000
 1634 East 31st St - \$425,000
 299 Elysian Fields - \$632,000
 1355 Excelsior Av - \$449,000
 2000 Filbert St - \$475,000
 4433 Fleming Av - \$360,000
 11245 Golf Links - \$930,000
 3923 Gardenia Pl - \$365,000
 801 Franklin St - \$307,500
 322 Hanover 311 - \$335,000
 8010 Hansom Dr - \$655,000
 6016 Harmon Av - \$315,000
 3139 Harrison St - \$458,000
 3437 Henrietta St - \$355,000
 7877 Hillside St - \$300,000
 8700 Hillside St - \$255,000
 9300 Hillside St - \$540,000

9321 Hillside St - \$408,000
 3901 Keller Av - \$420,000
 11265 Kerrigan - \$600,000
 109 Kerwin Av - \$317,000
 6931 Krause Av - \$316,000
 7414 Krause Av - \$198,000
 7421 Krause Av - \$265,000
 5303 Lawton Av - \$925,000
 2278 Leimert Bl - \$995,000
 15 Live Oak Rd - \$1,225,000
 4079 Lyman Rd - \$679,500
 9508 MacArthur Bl - \$295,000
 444 Merritt 302 - \$236,000
 5663 Miles Av - \$730,000
 6807 Mokelumne Av - \$345,000
 3127 Monticello Av - \$448,000
 10975 Moonlight Ct - \$438,000
 10985 Moonlight Ct - \$404,000
 6805 Moore Dr - \$760,000
 2865 Morcom Av - \$396,000
 2968 Morgan Av - \$372,000

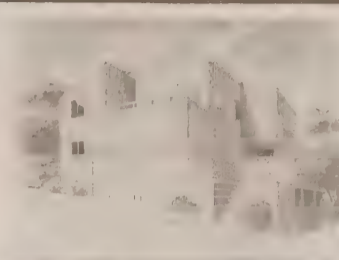
3816 Nevil St - \$358,000
 4090 Oak Hill Rd - \$555,000
 311 Oak St #B18 - \$335,000
 666 Oakland Av - \$325,000
 424 Orange St #203 - \$219,000
 10865 Packard St - \$386,000
 10867 Packard St - \$298,000
 10869 Packard St - \$300,000
 10875 Packard St - \$396,000
 9032 Paimera Ct - \$290,000

See SALES, Page B10

Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise an intention or discrimination based on race, color, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to discriminate on the basis of such preference, limitation or discrimination. "Familial status" means children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal parents, or persons who are pregnant women and persons seeking custody of children. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby notified that all dwellings, advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

JUST LISTED-OPEN SUN 2-4



6360 ROANOKE RD.

Desirable Rockridge location. Four bedrooms, 2.5 bath contemporary with remodeled kitchen. Dining and family open to a private deck & yard for easy indoor/outdoor living & entertaining. S.F. view from the master bedroom. Good floor plan. Sunny exposure, prime setting. Built in 1986.

Offered at \$815,000

For experience, diligence & professionalism, call Dian Hymer the next time you plan to buy or sell a home.

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1843
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VACANT DUPLEXEast Lake District
New Chinatown
2 blocks from the

Remodeled light and bright former Edwardian single family home, currently legal duplex and ready for the owner occupant or renting. Extended family, or children and parents, or one/rent another? Great condo alternative with a yard, private garage and an extra income unit has 2 bedroom, 1 bath with great natural light. Formal dining room and cut-in kitchen in lower unit, lobby and wooden staircase in the upper unit. Private laundry with washer and dryers. Both units have refinished hardwood floors. New maple/granite kitchen in the upper. Updated lower kitchen and both bathrooms. New roof and gutters, recent exterior and trim paint, spacious landscaped yard with sprinklers, one car garage and partial basement.

FORMER RENT \$3,000 MOS. ~ OFFERED AT \$498,000.

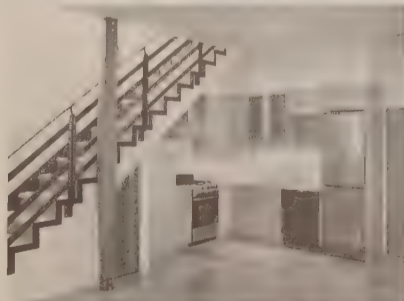
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Designed and newly built by award-winning Leger Wanaselja Architecture, these 2-story, 2-bedroom condominiums are elegant and ecological; high ceilings, sleek kitchens with custom maple cabinets, glass terrazzo counter tops, large decks and so much more. Also available: 2470 Martin Luther King Jr. Way - a small commercial condominium, offered at only \$105,000.

Open Sunday 2/15, 1-4pm

Priced from \$385,000 to \$405,000

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NAKAMURA REAL ESTATE

Maggie

2474 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley

NEW LISTING



BERKELEY \$469,000

Delightful 1920's bungalow home w/great floor plan. Lots of updates. Detached garage & spacious backyard. Move-in condition. Ready for immediate occupancy. Honey, call the moving van!!!



OAKLAND \$299,000

PERFECT STARTER HOME SHOWS VERY WELL! Spacious 2 Bedrooms and 1 Bathroom. Detached garage, large backyard. WHY BUY A CONDO PPP? Come & Stake your Claim NOW!!!



DANVILLE \$769,000

OUTSTANDING BUY! Fabulous park-like setting. 5 BD/2.5 BA, +/- 2400 sq. ft. Updated kitchen and bath. Formal Dining Rm. Plus beautiful close to schools, parks and easy freeway access.



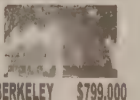
N. OAKLAND \$850,000

Commercial w/4 retail stores large corner lot w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC count. Currently, Café-Cleaners-Beauty Salon - One VACANT Owner Use? Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder!



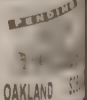
BERKELEY \$1,100,000

BERKELEY 6-Unit Apartment 6-2 BD Units ALL VACANT! Owner recently completed lots of remodel type work. Property shows extremely well.



BERKELEY \$799,000

6-Units in 2 Buildings Nice unit mix Good sized lot Some separate utility meters. Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Loth District CALL!



OAKLAND \$550,000

VICTORIAN DUPLEX 2010 sq. ft. Nonconforming zoning as a studio workshop. Also approved plans for conversion in rear. Close to transportation.

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**Call Team Leader
Sharon Beck at
(510) 548-6920 x247**



Oakland

Just Listed

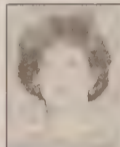
Lake Merritt elegance in Landmark Building. Sunny top floor 2 bedroom with spectacular lake views, woodburning frplc, form din rm, 10' ceilings, gleaming hwd flrs, near BART and downtown.
\$599,000

Robin Huntington

(510) 548-6920 x309

(510) 734-6455

robin@huntingtondesign.com



San Pablo



VTA ~ Commercial

Opportunity to purchase the Lammers Veterinarian Hospital. 2 buildings on a 20,000 sq.ft. lot. Hospital in the front and animal boarding in the back. All equipment included. Seller can carry
\$1,800,000

**Margaret Lin
(510) 548-6920 x241
margaretlin@kw.com**



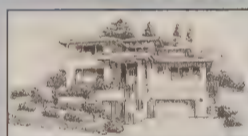
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California Realty

FEATURED HOMES



Julia Morgan Gem \$4,300,000
 Meticulously maintained estate on .6 acres. 6+ BR/3.5BA.

Eira Chrys (510) 835-6089



Montclair Beauty \$1,595,000
 Grand 4BR/3.5BA craftsman with huge front room/kitchen combo and custom touches.
 Millie Lombardi (510) 339-9290



Sunday 1-5 \$1,148,000
 6122 Ocean View, Oakland. 4+BR/3BA, updated, 11,060 square foot lot, beauty.
 Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900



Sunday 1-5 \$435,000
 4169 Webster, Oakland. Temescal spacious 2BR, basement, garage, yard, charming.
 Barbara Levy (510) 845-0211



Sat 2-4, Sun 1-5 \$320,000
 765 Wilson, Richmond. 3BR/2BA, updated, hardwood floors, fireplace, new floor and paint.
 Kathleen Wilson (510) 527-9800

Oakland/Piedmont

Sunday 2-5 \$829,000
 3801 Castle Drive. Fabulous 30's. 4BR/2BA home has 3 bridge views and 1/3 acre.
 Birmingham (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-4:30 \$729,000

3561 Camino Lenada. Charming 3BR/2BA Cape Cod with craftsman details.
 Hope Broderick (510) 339-9290

Sunday 1-4 \$620,000

772 Surrey Lane. Reduced 30K. 3BR/2.5BA, 2 fireplaces and pool. Sunny!
 Heidi Porter (510) 834-2010

Sat & Sun 2-5 \$599,000

1100 Glendora. 3+BR/2BA, great view location, new kitchen.
 John F. Bell (510) 834-2010

Sunday 2-4:30 \$479,500

3540 Carmel Street, Oakland. Charming 3BR, big bonus room, level yard. Good garage, plus extra parking. Quiet cul-de-sac.
 Mac McCulloch (510) 834-2010

Sunny Delight! \$340,000

3BR/1BA spacious cared for home. Polished foundation, large yard, garage, plus extra parking. Quiet cul-de-sac.
 Cynthia (510) 868-1549, 868-1400

Alameda

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$459,500
 1106 Bismarck Lane. Fantastically upgraded 3BR/2.5BA, townhouse, patio.
 Aliky Vasdekis (510) 845-0211

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$409,000

1111 Camino Del Valle, Alameda. 2BR/1.5BA, 2 car garage, good schools.
 Hyera Chang & James Lim (510) 868-1400

Emeryville

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$369,000
 5855 Horton #810. 1BR/1BA, top floor, new with views.
 Anthony Riggins (510) 428-0900

Berkeley

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,099,000
 2800 Claremont. Spacious 5BR/3BA traditional with old world details!
 TamiBobb.com (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$549,000

2728 Wallace Street. 4BR/2BA spacious dream home. Quiet area, easy to shopping, transportation, UC. Good condition. Parking.
 Cynthia (510) 868-1549, 868-1400

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Albany

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$489,500
 728 Carmel Avenue. New listing! 2BR/2BA, workshop, and gardens, in great locale.
 Jake McTigue (510) 868-1575

Contra Costa

Views To Infinity \$1,900,000
 Contemporary home private estate borders Blake Gardens, Kensington.
 Lillie Brady (510) 644-5262, 868-1400

Gorgeous 3BR/2BA \$498,000

Sunny and spacious 3BR/2BA with views, large kitchen, updated bath.
 Anna Lei (510) 853-8810, 273-9123

OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$460,000

3139 Grey Hawk Ct., Richmond. 4BR/2.5BA. Lakeview. BBQ Sunday.
 (510) 527-9800

Lot For Sale

Bayview Lot \$175,000
 Gentle slope lot in San Pablo/El Sobrante. 6000 Square feet
 Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487

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Sales

FROM PAGE B8

260 Perkins St 3D - \$178,000
844 Pine St - \$260,000
9320 Plymouth St - \$630,000
3270 Revere Av - \$530,000
71 Roble Rd - \$1,295,000
10908 Robledo Dr - \$310,000
1901 Rosecrest Dr - \$988,000
2931 Schlyer St - \$323,000
2425 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
9120 Skyline Bl - \$637,500
4538 Steele St - \$420,000
4933 Stoneridge Ct - \$710,000
4967 Stoneridge Ct - \$650,000

149 Strathmoor Dr - \$889,000
7883 Sunkist Dr - \$405,000
1459 Sunshine Ct - \$340,000
3630 Suter St - \$368,000
6866 Thornhill Dr - \$515,000
721 Trestle Glen Rd - \$750,000
1463 Tucker St - \$333,500
4507 Tulip Av - \$419,000
1000 Underhills Rd - \$440,000
6211 Valley View - \$420,000
3539 Victor Av - \$580,000
5472 Wadean Pl - \$300,000
7956 Winthrop St - \$351,000
1137 Wood St - \$335,000

PIEDMONT

24 Blair Av - \$1,010,000

RICHMOND

181 25th St - \$370,000
328 32nd St - \$367,000
726 32nd St - \$315,000
623 33rd St - \$113,000
463 44th St - \$425,000
3618 Bissell Av - \$292,000
2624 Carlson Bl - \$240,000
956 Carlson Bl - \$280,000
964 Carlson Bl - \$210,000
5480 Cerro Sur - \$480,000
3311 Clinton Av - \$361,000
2425 Downer Av - \$335,000
507 Duboce Av - \$188,000

5131 Gately Av - \$376,000
1406 Gaynor Av - \$285,000
2537 Gaynor Av - \$339,000
1728 Giarmita St - \$389,000
2845 Gonzaga Av - \$300,000
2909 Groom Dr - \$357,000
2543 Groveview - \$315,000
605 Harrison Dr - \$195,000
1500 Hayes St - \$285,000
68 Idaho St - \$399,000
2325 Main Av - \$310,500
716 Maple Av - \$171,000
2521 McBryde Av - \$323,500
2917 McKenzie Dr - \$260,000
461 McLaughlin St - \$325,000
753 McLaughlin St - \$350,000
6063 Monterey Av - \$490,000
6072 Monterey Av - \$310,000

1501 Monterey St - \$265,000
4629 Olive Ct - \$310,000
1515 Oscar St - \$295,000
130 Park Ln - \$246,000
1901 Pennsylvania - \$266,000
7 Quail Hill Ln - \$299,000
1300 Quarry 206 - \$470,000
8100 San Jose Av - \$295,000
2147 Sand Dollar Dr - \$389,000
1321 Sanderling I - \$1,040,000
1832 Shasta St - \$445,000
519 South 22nd St - \$290,000
853 South 29th St - \$340,000
317 South 3rd St - \$206,000
4100 South 41st St - \$570,000
346 South 8th St - \$276,000
439 South 9th St - \$260,000
466 South Marina - \$289,000

3241 Southridge Dr - \$400,000
3653 West Ct - \$250,000
3709 Woodland Pl - \$200,000
SAN LEANDRO
1533 142nd Av - \$400,000
2184 167th Av - \$330,000
706 Biltmore St - \$80,000
263 Caliente Dr - \$60,000
279 Cambridge Av - \$60,000
2080 Cleveland St - \$60,000
3571 Del Monte Wy - \$60,000
14367 Doolittle - \$60,000
2333 Driftwood - \$60,000
499 Estudillo 108 - \$60,000
See SALES

OPEN SUN. 2-5



6151 Swainland Road
Superior architectural design and quality details define this 1997 Montclair home with spectacular panoramic SF and bay views from most every room. Featuring 3000 sq. ft., 3+ bedrooms and 2.5 baths.
Offered at \$1,299,000

KELLY DEAL
Direct 510.649.1111 Ext. 245

LORI LEGLER
Direct 510.649.1111 Ext. 216

Alain Pinel Realtors

LAKE MERRITT OAKLAND
New Condo Listing

OPEN SUNDAY
February 15



322 Hanover #508
Picture yourself here! Just blocks away from Lake Merritt and Downtown Oakland, this condo is on the top floor and has views of the South Bay. 2 bedrooms, both master suites, baths. There's also a lovely foyer and a wet bar. Lovely living and dining area boast wood fireplace and patio. The lobby of the building has recently been redone and is making this a very special building and a most lovely condo. This is NOT TO BE.

Offered at \$389,000
Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
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809 Pala Avenue, Piedmont
Offered at \$1,600,000
Open Sunday 2-4:30

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ALBANY
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Albany New Listing! Great Albany location. Major fixer, Spanish Mediterranean. 3 BR / 1.5 BA. Formal dining room. Large fenced yard. Within walking distance to schools, BART, and shopping.
Phil Weingrow (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open 1:30-4:30pm
Crestmont Heights New Listing! 3+ BR / 2.5 BA, level in/level out patio. Fenced yard. Huge living room, formal dining, hardwood flooring, with views out over the wooded canyon. Wide deck. Enjoy the separate family rooms, master suite. Double garage with inside access. Sunny street with sidewalks.
Hal Castle (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Glenview New Listing! End of cul-de-sac. Mid-century modern 3 BR / 2 BA. Fenced yard. Huge living room, formal dining, hardwood flooring, with views out over the wooded canyon. Wide deck. Enjoy the separate family rooms, master suite. Double garage with inside access. Sunny street with sidewalks.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Lake Merritt Deluxe living with a 5 county view from this 14' floor 2 BR / 2 BA. Includes upgraded kitchen and baths, den / home office, solarium. 24 hour doorman / valet service. Shown by appointment.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Montclair Price reduced on this new construction! Wonderful details. Cook's kitchen. Hardwood floors and large rooms. Nice terraced rear yard area. Drop by the Open House this Sunday!
Mel Copland (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Near Lower Oakmore Light & bright well-kept home in a great neighborhood. 2+ BR / 2 BA. Hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, updated bathrooms. Peek of Bay views. Garage, in-law unit with separate entrance. Lovely garden/patio areas with fruit trees.
Deborah Riney (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Piedmont Pines New Listing! Piedmont Pines traditional. 3 BR / 2 BA. Beautiful hardwood flooring. Huge master suite / family. Level patio, spa, useable rear yard. Double garage with inside access. Very close to Skyline Gate and East Bay Regional Park.
Hal Castle (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND
Open Sun 2-4:30pm
Piedmont Pines Spacious cedar shingle traditional with filtered bay views and a large deck. 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Includes master suite with study, formal dining room. Formal dining room. Gracious living room with fireplace and built-ins. Huge basement too!
Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900

Berkeley
OPEN SUN. 2-4:00
Renovated 1 BR condo in an urban setting. Close to UC, transportation, and restaurants. This unit has a fireplace, its own laundry, and a delightful garden / patio. Ready for occupancy!
Miriam Wilson (510) 339-8900

Grand Lake
COMING SOON
A contemporary 2 BR / 2 BA penthouse with a Great Room. Granite counter kitchen, solarium and private deck. What a view of the East Bay Hills! Included is extra storage, in-unit laundry and 2 parking spaces.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900

Lake Merritt
SECURITY FOR TRUE VALUE! Hi-rise with roof garden and 24 hr. doorman. Over 1600 sq. ft. with new carpets / paint. Fee incl. heat, etc. and even cable. Within walking distance to BART, Kaiser, downtown and the lake.
D.C. Hodges (510) 339-8900

Distinguished Home of the Week - ALAMO
This astonishing Round Hill No. CC home features breathtaking views. The elegant interior has beautiful millwork and architectural details throughout. Professional quality gourmet kitchen. Spacious master suite with sunken jacuzzi style tub that overlooks the beautiful hills.
(925) 314-1500
Jerry Moriarty

Sales

FROM PAGE B11

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$192,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$795,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$483,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$471,895

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$420,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$538,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$528,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$214,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$410,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$375,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$319,667

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$949,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$394,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,455
KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$770,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$871,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$820,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 117
LOWEST PRICE: \$145,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,295,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$370,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$434,316

See SALES, Page B14

COMING SOON!



OAKLAND

Old world charm and lovely period elements abound in this classic home constructed in 1935. This distinctive, approximately 5,500 square foot home is beautifully situated on expansive grounds accentuated by redwood, fruit & oak trees, a Renaissance Courtyard, sweeping Bay, San Francisco, Golden Gate & Bay Bridge views and an in-ground pool. Long a focal point in Oakland's Oakmore neighborhood this special home has never before been on the market for sale.

Offered at \$2,000,000



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Terry Kulka,
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terrykulka@att.net

COLDWELL BANKER

Coming Soon!
Crocker Highlands

1061 Trestle Glen Road

Photos, virtual tours and more information at:
www.doloresbthom.com
You can also view all active East Bay listings at this site

Delightful split-level Trestle Glen home features formal living and dining rooms with built-ins, fireplace; remodeled kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances; 3 bedrooms/1 bath; hardwood floors, 2 car garage, nice backyard. A very charming home ideally located in a wonderful neighborhood.

Offered at \$659,000

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Berkeley Association of Realtors Auditorium

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



7 Hillcrest Court, Oakland

COMING SOON. A lovely all level three bedroom home in a small, landscaped planned unit development in the Oakland Hills. Adjacent outdoor recreational facilities, and just minutes to shopping and transit.

Offered at \$541,000



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New Listing ~ Elegant Claremont Hills Contemporary

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2-5PM



151 Vicente Road, Berkeley

Built in 1993 this unique and sophisticated custom home in the prestigious Claremont Hills is full of light and open space. Beautiful hardwood floors, a spacious master bedroom suite and a fabulous rooftop deck are just a few of the features that add to the sophistication of this wonderful home. City and wooded views will add to the pleasure of entertaining in this wonderful home. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 fireplaces, etc.

Offered at \$1,375,000



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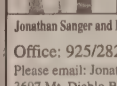
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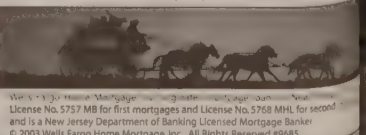
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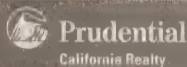
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Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Payment on a maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$2,595. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowner's insurance is required. Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Payment on a maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$1,959. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowner's insurance is required. Estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. 5/1 Adjustable Rate Mortgage is fixed for first 5 years and then adjusts to market rate thereafter. Estimated payment is \$2,608. Homeowner's insurance is required.



By Appointment

New Listing



Julia Morgan Estate

326 El Cerrito Avenue, Piedmont

This gracious and meticulously maintained Julia Morgan home is located in central Piedmont. This beautifully designed home exudes "Old World" charm with leaded glass and paneled rooms throughout. Other features include 6+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths, master suite with fireplace, wine cellar, library, and panoramic views. The lush and private garden has a gazebo, mature fruit trees and rose garden. Incomparable!

Price Upon Request

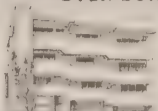
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655 MACARTHUR
LAKE MERRITT DISTRICT
FOUR UNIT \$840,000

In a great location this building offers three two-story, 2 bedroom, 2-bath townhouse units and one 3-bedroom, 2 bath penthouse unit.
• Walk to Lake Merritt
• Walk to shops and dining
• Secure lobby with elevator
• Over 5,000 sq.ft. living space



1410 MAGNOLIA ST
WEST OAKLAND
SIX UNIT \$525,000

Between downtown, the IKEA corridor and with great access to all freeways, this Deco building features six spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bath units.
• Up and coming neighborhood
• Access to BART and parks
• Some units remodeled
• All separate meters



3006 E 17TH STREET
FRUITVALE DISTRICT
SIX UNIT \$550,000

Surrounded by fresh landscaping and featuring new roof, porch, and paint, this early Edwardian six unit building features two 1 bedroom units and four studios.
• Refurbished electrical
• Refurbished heating
• Off-street parking
• Some new kitchens



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Valva

Maxwell Park

5214 Hillen Drive, Oakland



Situated on a 5,000 sq. ft. parcel, this custom-built Italian villa of nearly 1,700 sq. ft. was built in 1925 by Hillen for whom the street is named. This beautiful home features a classic vaulted ceiling living room with fireplace and balcony, formal dining room with leaded glass built-ins, a stained glass-windowed entry, lovely gardens with arbor and fruit trees, three bedrooms, one and one half baths, a lower level with garage, laundry room and storage.

Family owned for over 50 years this home retains all of its original charm and amenities. Property needs cosmetic renovation and some upgrades, but is a fabulous home rarely found in the neighborhood.

PRICE: \$450,000.00 Priced and to be sold in its present physical condition

4735 Congress Avenue Oakland

Fabulous live-work property in this beautifully-restored building in Maxwell Park. Originally a grocery with living space in the rear, it has also served as a church and community meeting center. Now lovingly restored with charm and grace, it awaits an owner with artistic taste, a passion for gardening and a need for lots of room.

Situated on a nearly 7,000 sq ft parcel, the building consists of over 2,000 sq. ft. and features a grand open floor plan in front, a combined kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, two full baths, utility room, closet laundry & partial basement for shop or storage.

Amenities include: new roof, windows, doors, upgraded kitchen & baths structural upgrades & forced air central furnace, restored wood floors, off-street parking site, rear deck w/wheelchair ramp, security gates and alarm system. Priced at only \$449,000.00



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Open Sunday



MONTCLAIR \$779,000
5969 BRUNS CT. (Open 2-4:30)
Piedmont side of Montclair. Gracious living at its best! 3BR/2BA contemporary. Spacious living rm, FDR, updated eat-in kitchen. 2-car attached garage. Abundant storage. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

Open Sunday

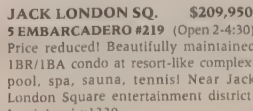
MONTCLAIR \$695,000
5910 LA SALLE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Price reduced! Piedmont side of Montclair Charming 3+BR/2.5BA contemporary built in 1963. Spacious living room w/ stone fireplace. Many upgrades. Large lot. Joanna Hirsch x1366



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$595,000
4357 ATLAS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! SF views from this lovely 2+BR/1+BA traditional. Sun-drenched rooms w/comfortable floor plan. Beautifully remodeled kitchen. French doors to level yard. Large family room. Diane Earl McCan x1352



SAN LORENZO \$399,000
16023 VIA PARO (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Sunny, updated 3BR/1BA home. Hardwood floors. Beautiful garden with pond, fruit trees & rose bushes. Newer roof. Michelle Miller x1335



JACK LONDON SQ. \$209,950
5 EMBARCADERO #219 (Open 2-4:30)
Price reduced! Beautifully maintained 1BR/1BA condo at resort-like complex: pool, spa, sauna, tennis! Near Jack London Square entertainment district! Lorri Arazi x1330

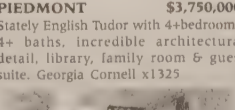
By Appointment



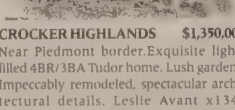
PIEDMONT \$4,750,000
Magnificent English with incredible detail on 2 1/3 acre level land. Grand formal rooms, 6+ bedrooms, pool. Georgia Cornell x1325



PIEDMONT \$3,880,000
New Listing! Magnificent Mediterranean w/SF views located on a very desirable street. Perfect for comfortable living & large scale entertaining. Exceptional architectural details. 7BR/6.5BA. Roselle Woods x1324



PIEDMONT \$3,750,000
Stately English Tudor with 4+bedrooms, 4+ baths. Incredible architectural detail, library, family room & guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325



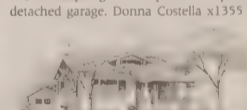
CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,350,000
Near Piedmont border. Exquisite light-filled 4BR/3BA Tudor home. Lush gardens. Impeccably remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

By Appointment

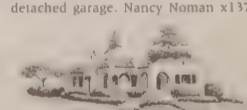
OAKLAND HILLS \$869,000-875,000
Alta Villa II. Only 4 homes remaining in this new development! Completion is scheduled for April. Four to five BR, custom touches, high ceilings & gourmet kitchens. Dramatic bay views! David Ichikawa x1331



OAKMORE \$739,000
Abundant light, bay views & quality decor in this remodeled 3+BR/2.5BA home. Fam rm, landscaped garden & patio. 2 fireplaces, detached garage. Donna Costella x1355



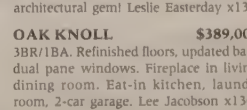
ROCKRIDGE \$639,000
3BR/1BA. Light-filled craftsman built in 1918. Excellent condition. Freshly painted. Hardwood floors, lush backyard, detached garage. Nancy Noman x1373



SAN LEANDRO \$549,000
Gorgeous 1920's Spanish Mediterranean. 3BR/2BA, large lot. Hmwd flrs, updated eat-in kit, breakfast rm, & many original details blended w/modern touches. Michelle Miller x1335



BERKELEY \$495,000
Looking for a Pied a terre? Custom designed condo 1+BR/1.5BA. Approx 17ft. ceilings, huge deck, shared yard. Tandem parking available. Solano Ave. at your doorstep. An architectural gem! Leslie Easterday x1363



OAK KNOLL \$389,000
3BR/1BA. Refinished floors, updated bath, dual pane windows. Fireplace in living/dining room. Eat-in kitchen, laundry room, 2-car garage. Lee Jacobson x1309

Open Sunday



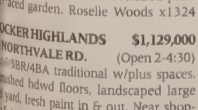
BERKELEY \$1,650,000
214 LOMA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Exquisite renovation of an historic Maybeck & White chalet. BAH Award winner 1991. Great location. Gini Erick x1339



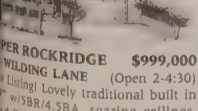
PIEDMONT \$1,175,000
2075 GLEN RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Price reduced! Stunning Spanish style home w/ 6+BR/4BA, formal dining room & breakfast room level out to oversized patio & landscaped garden. Roselle Woods x1324



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,129,000
3BR/4BA traditional w/plus spaces. Remodeled hwd floors, landscaped large yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Steven Blasatti x1379



ROCKRIDGE \$999,000
214 WILSON LANE (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Lovely traditional built in 1910 w/5BR/4.5BA, soaring ceilings, hwd flrs & crown molding. Formal dining, den, large master suite & generous storage. Nancy Moore x1302



ROCKRIDGE \$699,000
5946 OCEAN VIEW DR. (Open 2-5)
Fixer opportunity! Spacious 3+BR/3BA. Former beauty w/hardwood floors, fireplace, FDR & SF view from master bedroom. Vicki Woodhead x1334

Your San Francisco Bay Area Real Estate Resource

510.339.6460

1900 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA

Sales

FROM PAGE B12

Piedmont

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$651,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,500,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$1,202,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,340,875

Richmond

TOTAL SALES: 52
LOWEST PRICE: \$113,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,040,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$310,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$337,212

San Leandro

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST PRICE: \$290,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$657,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$420,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$421,354

San Lorenzo

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$245,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$422,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$409,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$366,850

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource at 209.365.4666.

The GRUBB Co.



6925 Shepherd Canyon Road

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Spacious contemporary with redesigned bathrooms and kitchen of stainless and granite. Two fireplaces, hardwood floors, large master suite and family room. Located just minutes from Montclair Village.

Offered at \$749,000

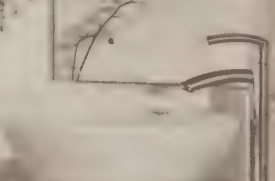


JILL CARRIGAN
OFFICE: 339.0400/328
jcarrigan@grubbc.com
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Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

Jack London Square Bath

Luxury Kitchen and Bath Fixtures With Personalized



www.hisbaton.com

OPEN MON (10:00-12:00) WED (10:00-12:00) THUR (10:00-12:00) FRI (10:00-12:00) SAT (10:00-12:00) SUNDAY (10:00-12:00)

1 ELIZABETH STREET, SUITE 100, OAKLAND, CA 94607



SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

510-523-114

825 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

El Sobrante

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Court. Mediterranean style home with 2.5 car garage. Large lot, cul-de-sac location. Donnaluo 510-814-4826

PENDING

San Leandro

\$379,000 15391 Elving Court. 3 bed, 2 bath home with some TLC but great location. 510-814-4818

PENDING

Oakland

For Lease 1504 Franklin St., #101. Approximately 1815 sq. ft. of office space available. This is a sublease that runs to April 30, 2005. Landlord will negotiate longer term if needed. Rich Kinks 510-814-4802

PENDING

\$210,000 877 42nd St. One of the original live/work properties. Living area above a former business. Corner location with many possible uses. Jeff 510-814-4885 or Steve 510-814-4886

\$285,000 884 42nd St. cute 1bd, 1ba single level bungalow with yard and garage. Formal dining room could be used as a second bedroom. Steve 510-814-4888 or Jeff 510-814-4885

\$462,500 1024 Wood St. Beautiful Victorian - Spacious w/5BR, 2BA. Formal dining, in-law w/entry. Kathy 510-814-4706

San Leandro

\$303,000 13733 Seagate Dr. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with inside laundry, 1 car garage and 1 carport! Community pool, spa and tennis courts. Tere 510-814-4840

PENDING

\$310,000 14560 Outrigger Dr. Single level ground floor 2 bed, 2 bath condo with fireplace and two 1-car garages. Community pool, spa and tennis courts. Tere 510-814-4840

PENDING

San Lorenzo

\$469,000 533 Drew St. 2ba home with room & counter. 510-814-4892

PENDING

EL CERRITO



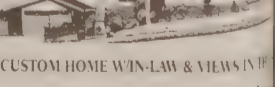
STUNNING MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE PROPERTY WITH GREAT VIEWS!

3BR w/master suite, 3.5BA, den, almost 2700 sq. ft. on 3/4 acre lot. 2 car parking with circular driveway. Fabulous property! 995 Arlington www.carladelazoppa.com 510-444-9999

FABULOUS CUSTOM HOME WITH LAWYER VIEWS IN THE

4 BR, 3 BA w/master suite and 1 BR, 1 BA in-law down. Home to almost 4000 sq. ft. Grand living room, large kitchen, new gleaming cherrywood floors, new cut Berber clear pest report & new roof, updated kitchen and bath, attached 2 car garage w/ int. access. #30000404 1315 Rifle Range www.carladelazoppa.com

RICHMOND VIEW



THE VIEWS ARE INCREDIBLE

3 BR, 2 BA house in showcase condition w/an open floor plan and gourmet kitchen. Master suite features a gorgeous fireplace. #30004417 1729 Beau Rivage www.cynthiaburke.com 800-647-3582

Visit our website - http://www.spr...

CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

www.mtgeinfo.com/cct

Information by INFOTRAK National Data Services

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Comments
Bay Area Funding	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.000 5.583...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.000 5.768...30	1st Time Buyer 30 4.375*...0.000 4.510...30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500*...0.000 3.620...30	*EFFECTIVE RATES AFTER FED & LOCAL SUBSIDIES FOR 1ST TIME HOME BUYER. Income & price limits. 100% 30 yr fix
BayCal Financial Corp.	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.451...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.639...30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.500...0.000 4.546...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625...0.000 3.669...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home PUR
Buckingham Mgt. Corp.	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.440...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.690...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 3.740...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625...0.000 3.270...30	Best Jumbo Rates in California...Period! Stated, No Doc, No Cost, Commercial also Open 24/7, 7 days a week!
California Mgt. Advisors	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...0.000 3.910...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...0.000 4.411...30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM
Cal-State Funding	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.540...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.910...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.810...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.000 4.160...30	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan. Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs
CMG Mortgage Services	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.250 5.246...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.250 5.641...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250...0.000 3.353...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...1.250 4.140...30	Open Sat & Sun. Qualifier & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit
Countryside Home Loans	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.613...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.811...45	7 yr Jumbo I/O 4.875...0.000 4.913...45	12 Mo Fxd Pay I/O 1.250...0.000 1.250...45	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 100% FINANCING, LESS PAPERWORK FREE PRE-APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES
Custom Mortgage Solutions	30-yr Fixed 5.250/350 5.390/35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625/350 5.770/35	15-yr Fixed 4.500...0.625 4.810...35	COFI 30 yr ARM 1.950*...0.000 4.880...60	*Fast! Fast! Closing!! No DOC to \$1M *Loans for A-B-C-D Credit. 100% Purchase *Loans to \$4,000,000. Call for Approval
ditech.com	30-yr Fixed 5.000...2.000 5.295...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...2.000 5.495...30	15-yr Fixed 4.250...2.000 4.748...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...2.000 5.399...30	Apply online at www.ditech.com *Your mortgage solution. Delivered!
Downey Savings & Loan	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.450...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.250 5.628...45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250...1.000 4.684...45	10/1 ARM 5.125 0.125 5.174...30	Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mortgages; *Pot. neg. amort. Apply online at www.dsnl.com
First Blackhawk Financial	30-yr Fixed 5.500 0.000 5.590...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 0.000 5.789...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 0.000 4.537...30	10/1 ARM 5.125 0.125 5.174...30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at marylghell.com Call 7 days wk mlgthel@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Horizon Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.701...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.908...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 4.947...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...1.000 4.112...30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APPROVAL, CASH OUT NO POINT NO FEES LOANS AVAILABLE, CALL 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM
Imperial Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.440...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.690...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.000 4.190...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...1.000 4.070...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET SO MANY REFERRALS! I CALL NOW!!
Matrix Investment Corp.	30-yr Fixed 4.875...1.890 5.113...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...1.880 5.395...30	15-yr Fixed 4.125...1.990 4.606...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375...0.000 5.484...30	Good & Bad Credit Considered Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans! visit us at www.matrixinvestmcorp.com
Mortgage Center USA	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.370...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...2.000 5.640...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...2.000 4.810...30	10 yr Int Only ARM 3.000...2.000 3.230...30	5/1 3.625 2pts 3 922APR WOW!! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E Buy Offices 800-640-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist
Mortgage Market	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.580...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.872...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.028...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 3.872...30	Credit problems bankruptcy difficult loans our specialty, all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction.
National Financial Corp.	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.586...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.808...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 4.047...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.739...30	Easy qualification, Fast approval. No income, No assets. OK www.uslending.com
Northern Mutual Corp.	30-yr Fixed call... call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... call...	6 month ARM call... call...	call... call...	WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available! (3yr.ppp) E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Pacific West Financial	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.604...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.921...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.292...30	3/1 ARM 4.000...0.000 4.095...30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Premier Mortgage Group	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.435...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.653...30	3/1 ARM 3.125...0.000 3.735...30	5/1 ARM 3.875...0.000 3.913...30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great jumbo and interest only programs
Santell & Associates	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.592...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.790...30	3/1 ARM 3.750...0.000 3.833...25	30-yr ARM* 1.950*...0.000 4.759...30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS-0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY / 0 DOWN PMT/Full ind4 67 APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpartnerwork.com
Saratoga Bancorp	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.550...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.770...45	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 4.960...45	5/1 ARM 4.375...0.000 4.180...45	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purh/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com.
Washington Mutual Bank	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.712...60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.925...60	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.827...60	Rental Property 1.650...0.000 4.048...60	Purchases: 5 day close/no points. Complimentary pre-approvals. Available 7 days a week. *Pot def int
Western Capital Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.491...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.125 5.813...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.250 4.857...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125...0.125 5.210...30	No Closing Cost Loans Available Ask about our 5/1 & 7/1 ARMs & BALLOONS Apply Online at www.lowestrates.com
A American Resid. Lend.	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.466...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.665...45	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.000 4.610...45	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 1.310...45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! www.mortgagesresidential.com M-F 7:00-9:00, S-S 7:00-5:00 *pot neg arm
A Superior Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.510...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.920...30	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.000 4.990...30	5/1 ARM 4.500...0.000 4.620...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK. *Apply online! www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.788...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.450...1.000 3.530...30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.163...30	LOW RATES/ALL THE PROGRAMS CREDIT PROBLEMS O.K. RATES UPDATED DAILY @AAALENDER.COM
AimLoan.com	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.375 5.482...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.655...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.500 4.824...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.125 4.384...30	Apply and lock online 24/7. Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm. Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Ameriave Mortgage Corp.	30-yr Fixed 5.250*...0.375 5.506...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375*...0.090 5.607...30	3/1 ARM 2.875*...0.125 3.951...30	5/1 ARM 3.750*...0.250 4.120...30	*APR includes bank fee. Save money. www.amerisave.com Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300.
Bank of America	30-yr Fixed 5.375*...1.438 5.531...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500*...1.075 5.616...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500*...1.455 4.851...30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.625...1.228 3.160...30	*Purch only. 100%Financing Avail - Fast Closings No Cost for Appraisal - Refi today! Low/Mid/MoIncome Programs Avail
Bank of America Mortgage	30-yr Fixed 5.250*...1.730 5.476...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375*...1.880 5.627...30	6 month ARM 3.000*...0.315 3.091...30	3/1 ARM 3.375*...1.649 3.869...30	*Purchase only. Call for refinancing Rates 925-688-3760 / 877-88-Fixed

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- Learn about each lender's products & services
- Learn about closing costs and types of loans
- Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- Email questions/scenarios to lenders
- Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- Prequalify, preapprove or apply online

Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$333,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Avege 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website to contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

NEW LISTING! PIEDMONT'S FINEST!



31 Sea View Avenue, Piedmont

Efficient Mediterranean with San Francisco bay views located on one of Piedmont's desirable streets is perfect for comfortable living and large scale entertaining. This home of less beauty is one of unparalleled elegance graciously appointed with exceptional architectural detail. 7 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, including master bedroom suite. Shown by appointment only.

Offered at \$3,880,000

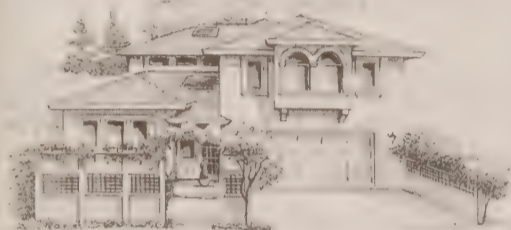
Roselie Woods

Broker Associate, 510.338.1324. Cell: 510.915.5356



New Listing!

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2-4:30PM



123 Wilding Lane, Oakland

DESIRABLE UPPER ROCKHILL LOCATION.

bedrooms, 4.5 baths, built in 1997. Huge master suite and bath. High ceilings, lovely crown molding, sunny. Half block to Hillcrest School!

Offered at \$999,000

Nancy Moore

Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1302



just ask our clients

pacunion.com

MAISON NOUVEAU Real Estate Services

Cupid's Cottage

Open Sunday, 2-4pm!



6420 Essex
Oakland
\$349,000

2+BR, 1BA • Huge deep lot that stretches into Berkeley • Refinished fir floors • Spacious kitchen with new granite countertops • Garage and separate shed • Off-street parking • Mature fruit trees • New garage roof • Alarm system • New lighting fixtures • New sprinkler system front & back • Claw foot tub • Designer paint colors • Lots of original charm!

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2%

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The GRUBB Co.

Congratulations to Bebe McRae
and Anian Pettit Tunney

Our Shining Stars



BEBE MCRAE
652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com



ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY
339.0400/217
tunney@grubbco.com

BERKELEY • OAKLAND • PIEDMONT

RED OAK REALTY

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Homes Open Sunday



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$229,000
Studio - Condominium in the best Elmwood location 2 blocks from College Avenue! Hardwood floors, lots of light, new kitchen appliances, Murphy bed, front porch. Move right in!
2906 Hillegass Avenue Unit C Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$349,000
1+1/1 - Adorable 2-story Westbrae cottage exudes charm & character. Open floorplan, hardwood floors, large deck overlooking a creek. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Alcove off living room for office
1196 Cornell Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$383,000
2/1 - Delightful, sunny cottage near Cedar Rose Park, shopping and N. Berkeley BART. Open, airy living and dining rooms, hardwood floors, rear yard maximum charm!
1241 Cedar Street Open 2-5



BERKELEY \$739,000
Duplex - Renovated, built in 1903, 2br/3ba owner's unit and 1bd/1ba apartment! Remodeled kitchens and baths, hardwood floors, all new systems, detached garage.
1907-1909 Parker Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$1,149,000
Beautiful, mixed-use building waiting for the right buyer to appreciate its true potential! 1st floor great for office space, penthouse with views, & separate 1/1 cottage with deck 11,300 sq. ft. lot
554 Oakland Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$235,000
2+1/1 - Sweet cottage with large garden for garden and play. Fresh paint, new carpet
1247 52nd Avenue Open 2-4

By Appointment



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$1,250,000
Theater - Approved and permitted entertainment venue with a live/work space upstairs. State of the art lighting, electrical service, Meyer sound.



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$259,000
Land - Secluded and intimate retreat! Overlooking S.F. Bay, this beautiful & gentle sloped lot features a seasonal creek, pond & mature trees.



EL CERRITO \$625,000
4/2.5 - Well-maintained, updated home with great Bay views from all public areas. Large deck, extra room, workshop. Master suite. Unbelievable!

YOUR COMPLETE REAL ESTATE RESOURCE.

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510.527.3387

2983 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley, Oakland, CA 94611
510.292.2000

publish 2/13/04

Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Nominations

Nominate a real estate professional (realtor, loan officer or title rep) that goes above and beyond. I want to hear about those individuals or companies that give back to the community. Call me at 510-441-7190, with the basic info and I'll do the rest.

MCC

Mortgage Credit Certificate Holders. MCC Holders are now able to refinance and keep their MCC. They also may be able to remove PMI payments. Refinancing may not be everyone. An agent can answer questions and concerns at (800) 799-3377.

Transformations

Ready to relocate? Does your home need a ready-for-sale transformation? Hire Professional Organizer **Lynn Lertzman**. Home Transformations offers help and advice to homeowners overwhelmed with belongings accumulated over the years. The transition from disorganized to orderly will attract buyers. For a free estimate call (510) 387-9413.

First Times

Loan Consultant, **George John-**

son of GB Johnson Financial Services, offers a free first time buyer informational workshop. Featured topics are zero percent down payment, FHA and conventional loans. Johnson will offer facts affordable properties. For information on future workshops contact Johnson at www.gbjohnson.com.

Workshop

"How To Buy Your First or Next Home" is held at Ryan's Antiques in Hayward. Learn about the variety of loan programs available and how much house you can afford. Join presenters Aileen Matteson of Coldwell Banker and Jeff McGary of Frontier Mortgage for the next session, 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19. Contact Matteson for a reservation at 510-888-2105.

HORSES

And they're off! Bay Meadows horse racing is the focus of a California Association of Residential Lenders day of R & R. The event package includes parking, admission, buffet and reserved seating for racing excitement. Be there at 1:15 p.m., Friday, April 16. Sign up by calling **Jennifer Johnson** at 925-355-1200.

RE/MAX

The 2004 RE/Max 31st International Convention will be held in San

Diego, Saturday, Feb. 28 to Wednesday, March 3. The San Diego Convention Center is the event headquarters. Planned events are a golf tournament, the "Night of the Stars" awards presentation, educational programs and motivational speakers. For updated information visit the website at www.remax.net.

TOUR

Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast. The breakfast is 8:45, Thursday, Feb. 27 at the OAR Building. Bring marketing flyers and an appetite. Network more - sell more. For questions and parking information please call **Ramadan Aziz** of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

LUNCHEON

Attend the Berkeley Association of Realtors monthly, networking luncheon. The next luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25. The speaker is a Legislative Advocate. The Luncheon is held at the BAR Auditorium. Reservations are a must. Contact the BAR office for information and reservations at 510-848-4288.

NETWORK

The Associated Real Property

Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast", from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18. The new location is Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call **Tyrone Cooley** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

HOUSING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. The March ballot measures are the topic of discussion. For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

WCR

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Feb. 20. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is H's Lordships in Berkeley. For reservations call WCR President, **Patricia Bouie** Hinds of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or by e-mail at boiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

WORKSHOP

Landlords can learn how to eliminate 90 percent of tenant problems with the Free Landlord Workshop. The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County presents the class. Learn about new laws, required notices, screening tips and more. Reservations are required. Call for February workshop dates at 510-893-9873 or visit the Web site at www.rhanac.org.

DEADLINE

Don't wait to meet the National Association of Realtors ethics class requirement. By the end of the year all members of NAR must complete a two-and-a-half hour course. The course stresses familiarity with the Code of Ethics and also an understanding of how the code applies to your business. Contact your local association for class information. Additionally, Realtor.org offers a free, online course.

TIPS

Realtor Online Magazine is available to help with your real estate business. Each month there is new content at the website www.realtor.org/realmag. You'll find tips on FSBOs, broker opens, proving your worth and much more. You can also request a business tips



newsletter sent directly to your mail box.

WHO?

Coldwell Banker of California collected over 1300 coats for needy children and Operation: Orange charity programs. Coldwell Banker has been a special sponsor of both programs. For more information visit www.niamoves.com.

WHAT?

Someone new at your Something special you doing? Changing location to a seminar? Let me know to let the world know deadline is two weeks event. Send an email bierleid@mindspring.com info to me at 510-441-7190 at 510-441-7190

Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contractors.com

Alameda			
\$225,500	965 Shorepoint Ct. #114	18D/1BA	510-748-1175
Open Sun 2-4			
Gallagher & Lindsey	Anne De Bardeleben		
\$259,950	955 Shorepoint Ct. #211	18D/1BA	510-748-1127
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Gallagher & Lindsey	Debra Gorman		
\$360,000	2102 Shoreline #461	2BD/1.5BA	510-523-0746
Open Sun 2-4			
Kane & Associates	Mindy Hart		
\$393,000	2419 Marti Rae Ct	18D/1BA	510-814-4831
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Bev Williams		
\$409,000	1111 Cam	2BD/1.5BA	
Open Sun 2-5	Bay Farm Island		
Prudential Ca Realty	James Lim/Hyera Chang		
\$439,500	1007 Kingston Ln.	2BD/2BA	510-814-4831
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Tom Young		
\$459,000	3262 San Jose Ave	2BD/1BA	510-523-8749
Open Sun 2-4			
Centennial Real Estate	Linda Larkin		
\$459,500	1106 Bismarck Ln	2BD/2.5BA	510-845-0211
Open Sun 2-5	Islandia		
Prudential Ca Realty	Ally Vasdeils		
\$489,000	1819 Elm St	2+BD/1BA	510-814-4831
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Kane & Associates	Jerry H. Judy L. Lynn S.		
\$495,000	1003 Camilla	3BD/2.5BA	510-769-1606
Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30			
Bickley Real Estate	John Bickley		
\$518,000	1626 Broadway	2BD/1BA	510-882-5232
Open Sun 2-4			
Kane & Associates	Lena Sazo		
\$525,000	2821 Yosemite Ave	2+BD/1BA	510-814-4825
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Shirley McWilliam		
\$535,000	312 Sunset Rd.	3BD/2BA	510-339-0400
Open Sun 2-4			
The Grubb Co.	Anne Van Dyke		
\$559,000	317 Holly Oak Ln	3BD/2.5BA	510-814-4888
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Steve Sorensen		
\$579,000	2817 Otis Dr	3BD/2BA	510-748-1125
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Gallagher & Lindsey	Troy Staten		
\$579,000	3458 Catalina	3BD/2.5BA	510-814-4874
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Mark Playsted		
\$585,000	1833 San Antonio	3BD/1.4BA	510-865-2800
Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30			
Kane & Associates	Lisa Lawley		
\$595,000	3513 McSherry Way	3BD/2.5BA	510-508-2004/333-8897
Open Sun 2-4			
Alameda Realty	Jim Mangiapane/Eileen Walker		
\$599,000	1431 Eastshore Dr	3BD/2BA	510-681-5249
Open Sat & Mon 1-4			
Alameda Realty	Carol Knight		
\$665,000	1404 High St.	3 units	510-814-4839
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Bill Douglas		
\$668,000	8 Beaufort Harbor	3BD/2.5BA	510-814-4880
Open Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Maureen Shandobil		
\$685,000	2620 Encinal Ave	3 units	510-748-1807
Open Sun 2-4			
Gallagher & Lindsey	Ann Bracci		
\$719,000	940 Versailles Ave	2BD&1BD	510-521-1630/846-0368
Open Sun 2-4			
Bayside Real Estate	Janelle Spatz/Nissa Dash		
\$735,000	1528 Walnut St	3BD/2.5BA	510-483-1676/290-8818
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Kane & Associates	Krystyna Nowak/Jena Ng		
\$759,000	345 Laguna Vista	3BD/3BA	415-516-4945
Open Sat & Sun 1-4			
Prudential CA Realty	Kay Paik		
\$849,000	1333 Bay St	3BD/1.5BA	510-814-4832/814-4815
Open Sat & Sun 2-4			
Harbor Bay Realty	Dania A-Moroni/Nancy Gordon		
\$965,000	2016 San Antonio Ave.	5+BD/4BA	510-339-0400
Open Sun 2-4:30			
The Grubb Co.	Ed Kuo		

Albany			
\$364,000	535 Pierce St. #3214	2BD/2BA	510-759-2265
Open Sun 1-5 Albany Bayside Commons			
RE/Max East Bay Hills	James Shlin		

Albany			
\$475,000	1341 Washington Ave.	2BD/1BA	510-524-9888x33
Open Sun 2-4			
Berkeley Hills Realty	Bill & Tracy		
\$489,000	1205 Brighton Ave.	3BD/1.5BA	510-339-8900
Open Sun 2-4:30			
C21 Heritage Real Estate	Phil Weingrow		
\$489,500	728 Carmel Ave	2+BD/2BA	510-888-1575
Open Sun 2-5			
Prudential Ca Realty	Jake McTigue		
Antioch			
\$245,000	1406 "G" St	3BD/1BA	510-339-9290
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Prudential Ca Realty	Felicia Owens		
Berkeley			
\$229,000	2906 C Hillegass Ave.	1BD/1BA	510-708-6086
Open Sun 2-4			
Red Oak Realty	Tim Keenan		
\$299,000	2501 Dana St. #1	1BD/1BA	510-339-8900
Open Sun 2-4			
C21 Heritage Real Estate	Miriam Wilson		
\$349,000	1196 Cornell Ave	1+BD/1BA	510-280-2178
Open Sun 2-4			
Red Oak Realty	Grace Bishop		
\$383,000	1241 Cedar St	2BD/1BA	510-292-2010
Open Sun 2-5			
Red Oak Realty	Shannon Way		
\$389,000	2406A Tenth St	2BD/2BA	510-406-6991
Open Sun 2-4			
Jeans Realty	Diane Sindel-Deutsche		
\$399,000	5845 Bernhard Ave.	3BD/1.5BA	510-486-1495
Open Sun 1-4			
Coldwell Banker	Gene Della Maggiora		
\$485,000	1125 Channing Way	3BD/1+BA	510-486-1495
Open Sun 2-5			
Coldwell Banker	Maxine Malberg		
\$499,000	1820 Derby St	2BD/1BA	510-486-1495
Open Sun 2-4			
Coldwell Banker	Maura Allen		
\$550,000	1865 Capistrano Ave.	3BD/1BA	510-799-3527
Open 1-4			
For Sale By Owner			
\$555,000	1336 Carrison	2+BD/1BA	510-748-1118
Open Sun 2-4	2 houses on 1 lot		
Gallagher & Lindsey	Ty Welchhart		
\$595,000	141 Fairlawn Dr	2+BD/3BA	510-524-9888x11
Open Sun 2-4	Berkeley Hills		
Berkeley Hills Realty	Terese Ashman		
\$595,000	2457 Marin Ave	2BD/1.5BA	510-446-5444
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Millstein & Associates	Candace Hyde-Wang		
\$649,000	2925 Benvenue	3BD/2BA	510-845-0211
Open Sun 1-5	Elmwood		
Prudential Ca Realty	Natalie Cutler		
\$650,000	1209 Glen Ave	3BD/1BA	510-526-4336
Open Sun 2-4	Rose Garden		
Northbrae Properties	Anita Thede		
\$725,000	1046 Cragmont Ave.	3BD/1.5BA	510-652-2133
Open Sun 2-4:30			
The Grubb Co.	Susie Schevill		
\$739,000	1907-1909 Parker St	510-280-2138	
Open Sun 2-4	Duplex		
Red Oak Realty	Billy Karp		
\$749,000	1628 Cedar St.	2+BD/2BA	510-652-2133
Open Sun 2-4:30			
The Grubb Co.	Susie Schevill		
\$799,000	706 The Alameda	4BD/2BA	510-486-1495
Open Sun 1-4			
Coldwell Banker	Rita Zwerdling		
\$819,000	2830 Derby St	3BD/3BA	510-652-2133
Open Sun 2-4:30			
The Grubb Co.	Helene Barlin		
\$895,000	1010 Creston Road	4BD/2.5BA	510-526-4566
Open Sun 2-4			
Millstein & Associates	Lorraine Osmundson		
\$910,000	2818 Prince St	4BD/2BA	510-486-1495
Open Sun 1-5			
Coldwell Banker	Sally Hendrickson		
\$1,095,000	2151 Ashby	5+BD/4BA	510-845-0211
Open Sun 2-4	S. Berkeley		
Prudential Ca Realty	Nancy Plattford		
\$1,099,000	2800 Claremont Blvd	5BD/3BA	510-339-9290
Open Sun 2-4:30	Claremont		
Prudential Ca Realty	Tami Bobb		
\$1,375,000	151 Vicente Rd.	3+BD/3.5BA	510-338-1367
Open Sun 2-5	Claremont Hills		
Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate	Carla Buffington		

Berkeley			
\$1,495,000	2245 Glen Ave.	4BD/3BA	510-339-4700
Open Sun 2-4:30	Berkeley		
Coldwell Banker		Becky Anderson	
\$1,650,000	1705 La Loma	4BD/4BA	
Open Sun 2-4:30			510-338-1339
Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate		Gini Erck	
El Cerrito			
\$459,000	1121 Norvell Ct	3BD/2BA	510-526-4336
Open Sun 2-4			
Northbrae Properties		Heldi Abramson	
\$685,000	841 Balra Dr	3BD/3BA	510-524-3840
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Millstein & Associates		Sheri Madde	
Kensington			
\$489,000	1652 Oakview Ave	2BD/1BA	510-466-6991
Open Sun 2-4			
Jeans Realty		Diane Sindel-Deutsche	
\$599,000	23 Kingston Ave	3BD/2BA	510-292-3048
Open Sun 2-4	510-292-3048		
Marvin Gardens		Merrilyn Rhodes/Crystal Elliott	
Lafayette			
\$2,100,000	1490 Rancho View Dr.	5BD/5.5BA	925-253-4601/510-547-1615
Open Sun 1-4			
Coldwell Banker		Jerilyn Babington	
Oakland			
\$209,950	5 Embarcadero #219	1BD/1BA	510-338-1330
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate		Lorri Arazi	
\$235,000	1247 52nd Ave	2+BD/1BA	510-280-2170
Open Sun 2-4			
Red Oak Realty		Virginia Perl	
\$289,000	4840 Ygnacio Ave.	2BD/1BA	510-531-7000 x286
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Wells & Bennett Realtors		Heldi Tuggle	
\$295,000	5400 Mountain Blvd. #1200	2BD/1.5BA	510-339-8900 x238
Open Sun 2-4:30			
C21 Heritage Real Estate		Helen Nicholas	
\$318,000	3615 Rhoda Avenue	2BD/1.5BA	510-625-8900
Open Sun 2-4			
Realty World East Bay		Alma Fisher	
\$335,000	3616 Laurel Avenue	1+BD/1BA	510-625-8900
Open Sun 2-4			
Realty World East Bay		Lorne Lente	
\$338,000	3245 Hyde St	2BD/1BA	510-428-0900
Open Sun 2-5			
Prudential Ca Realty		Scott Thompson	
\$349,000	6420 Essex	2+BD/1BA	510-849-9900
Open Sun 2-4			
Maison Nouveau		Heather Sittig	
\$354,950	7130 Outlook	2BD/1BA	510-531-7000 x292
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Wells & Bennett Realtors		Carol Robbiano	
\$369,900	1382 E 36th Street	3BD/2BA	510-882-2215
Open Sat & Sun 1-3			
Kane & Associates		Agnes Wu	
\$389,000	322 Hanover Ave. #508	2BD/2BA	510-339-4700
Open Sun 1-4:30			
Lake Merritt		Donna Conroy	
Coldwell Banker			
\$399,950	2818 Best	3BD/1BA	510-339-4700
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Coldwell Banker		Reva Tolbert	
\$399,950	3875 Market Street	2BD/1BA	510-638-6600
Open Sun 1-4			
Mortgage Magic Bogan & Associates			
\$431,000	4160 Mountain View	2BD/1BA	510-339-0400
Open Sun 2-4:30			
The Grubb Co.		Helen Yott	
\$435,000	4169 Webster	2BD/1BA	510-845-0211
Open Sun 1-5			
Prudential Ca Realty		Barbara Levy	
\$436,000	5122 Congress Ave	3+BD/2BA	510-748-5300
Open Sun 2-4			
The Homes-Link Team			
\$449,000	4735 Congress Ave.	3BD/2BA	510-451-7317
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Valva Realty Co.		Michael Valva	
\$450,000	5214 Hillen Dr.	3BD/1.5BA	510-451-7317
Open Sun 2-4:30			
Valva Realty Co.		Michael Valva	
\$469,000	3921 Glen Park Rd.	2+BD/1BA	510-524-9888x14
Open Sun 2-4			
Berkeley Hills Realty		Warren La	

37 Sulsun City 12

SAN RAM

Norris Canyon Estates
From the low \$1,000,000s: Extraordinary guard-gated community is in a magnificent hideout location in the heart of San Ramon Valley. These homes feature majestic two-story loyers, staircases, fabulous gourmet kitchens, master bedroom suites, sunlit family rooms, private dens, and lower level bonus rooms in 14 floorplans from 3650 to over 6600 sq. ft. Five models open daily 11-6. 925-743-1000. www.norriescanyonestates.com.

Windemere

From the \$400,000s to the \$900,000s. Family-oriented master-planned community with many neighborhoods to choose from. Outstanding amenities include approx. 1,163 acres of open space, 12.5 miles of trails, magnet parks, excellent San Ramon schools, library & more. Close to freeways, employers & BART. For details call 925-556-6000 or go to www.visitwindemere.com & register for the community interest list!

Gale Ranch
From the low \$50s

course community 14 models to tour at 5 communities with 3 neighborhoods opening soon Villapaseo 3 & 4 bd up to approx 1802 sf Coronado 3-5 bd up to approx 2763 sf Monarch 5 bd up to approx 3013 sf Summit Bridge 4-5 bd up to approx 6775 sf Gallery 5 bd up to approx 4058 sf Located just 1.5 mi east of I-680 on Bolinger Canyon Road Open 10-6 Call (925) 967-0001 at Villapaseo (925) 248-0136 at Coronado (925) 248-0112 at Monarch (925) 968-0970 at Summit Bridge (925) 967-

0013 at Gallery or
Information Center

Shelbourne
From the low \$400,000s. MODELS NOW OPEN!
Shelbourne at Windemere feature elegant townhome-style condominiums 2 & 3 BR 1204 to 1602 sq ft, attached garages, neighborhood pool & nearby park. Master-planned community w/San Ramon Valley schools, parks, open space, trails. Call the Sales Information Center at 925-829-0515. Open daily 10-5.

STOCKS

Blossom Ranch
From the low \$300,000s. Grand Opening! Affordable single family homes offer 4 to 6 bedrooms with up to 2505 sq ft. Open daily 10am to 5pm closed Thursday 209-477-5453
www.swardhomes.com

From the low \$30s
family detached home

information call 888-265-5087 www.ryanid.com Interstate 5 to
Eight Mile Ad Go East turn right on Davis Ad Turn Left on Whistler
Way to Fairway Glen Lane which ends at Run Dr at models

08 Oakmore Meadows
Coming February 2004! Single family detached homes 3-5
bedrooms 1 756-2 863 sq ft 1-5 to March 1st exit east right
on Pacific Blvd. right on Oakmore Meadows Dr. call 888-265-5087

SUISUN
The Classic

The Classics at Peterson Ranch
Priced from the mid \$300,000s. Six new elegant plans 1581 to 2830 sq ft 3 and 4 bedrooms some w/detached garages Easy commute Forecast Homes 707-432-0166 Open daily

From the upper 3
community of afford

up to 1,828 sq ft. These well-designed floor plans have many amenities and upgraded features. Loft options are available in some plans. To find Duck Creek take the Eleventh Street exit off the 205 freeway. Turn left on Lammers Road, right on Fabian Road, and make a left onto Montgomery Lane. Follow signs to the entrance of Duck Creek. Open Fri 11am to 5pm Sat-Wed 10am to 5pm 208-839-6871 www.award-homes.com

From the low \$3

Edgewood
From the mid \$300,000s. 3-5 bedrooms 1 410-2 285 sq ft.
From 205, east 11th St. right on Corral Hollow. left on Middlefield
Dr. left on Roxbury Dr. 888-773-7371 www.ryland.com

Junction
Now Selling! For

the Americana sales office at the corner of Carol Ann Dr and Gibraltar Ln. From 205 exit 11th St., right on Corral Hollow, right on Golden Leaf Ln., left on Carol Ann Dr., right on Gibraltar Ln. Located on the corner of Carol Ann Dr. and Gibraltar Ln. 888-261-4510. www.ryland.com

Quail Run
From the upper \$300,000s 4 and 5 bedroom single-family

homes in prestigious
2410 st Great local
Good Day, take the

VACAVILLE
20 Woodcreek and Heritage

From the low \$40s
Forecast homes qu

excellent schools, shopping and restaurants. Easy commutes! From Int. 80 take 505 east, left at Vaca Valley Pkwy and north at Crystal Springs. Call (707) 448-6724 or (707) 448-2740 now! www.ForecastHomes.com

21 Hampton Park
From \$301,000 Phase 3 release. Coming Soon! Active Adult Community - Grand Opening. Leisure Town's newest

2 & 3 bedrooms. Open
Taxes at 20.00 per year.

Hiddenbrooke
From the low \$400,000s Three new home communities now
sitting in lovely, sandy Pigeon Mountain. Partners features four
new communities with homes ranging from 1000 sq. ft. to 2000 sq. ft.

Call 707-553-1080
English cottage style

The Knots Call 707-554-6550 Reflections 3-4 bedroom homes 1665-2349 sq ft by Western Pacific Housing Now selling in preparation for February 7th Grand Opening Call 707-554-9296 Coming later this year The Summit by Taylor Woodrow Homes and The Orchards by Western Pacific Housing For more information www.visitthiddenbrook.com

From the mid 53
RELEASE JAN 10

WALNUT CREEK
Sunny Cove

2 Priced in the high
Left! *read right*

30 Oak Treat Court Town Homes
From the mid \$500,000s. Mediterranean styled town homes with 2 bedrooms and 1.5 baths attached garages and finished basements. Call today to see one.

June 1941
to Oak Ridge, Tenn.

through Monday, 10/31 or visit our website at oaktreasure.com

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www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Open Sunday
February 15
2:00 to 4:30

OAKLAND \$690,000
7253 Sayre Drive
A traditional 4 BD/2 BA Montclair home with remodeled kitchen and bath. Double pane windows, new carpet, new paint, gleaming HWF, fireplace and laundry room. Open 1-4.
Danville Better Homes
925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$595,500
1432 5th Avenue
Triplex in good location. Could be a live and work arrangement. 5 blocks to Lake Merritt and close to transportation, shopping nad schools. One 2BR/1.5 BA and two 1 BR/1 BA, plus nonconforming 2 BD in rear. Open 1:30-4.
Loc Nguyen 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$389,000
3221 Kansas Street
New Listing in Laurel! Spring is in the air? Come check out this warm and inviting 2 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow in the Laurel District. Open 2-5.
M. McKeown 510-899-6339



OAKLAND \$295,000
300 Caldecott Ln. #212
New Listing, first open house. Vacant and ready...for you! This spacious one bedroom condo with one car garage comes complete with many built-ins.
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

OAK KNOLL \$225,000
8711 Mountain Bl #28
Ready to move in-why pay rent! Condo with "townhouse" feel, conveniently located in complex with mature landscaping, pool, sauna, club house, many amenities. Seller wants offer!
Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

SAN RAMON \$1,050,000
Pristine beauty! Borders Las Trampas park. The ultimate in privacy. Views! A short walk to fabulous views from Caquinez Straits to windmills of Livermore, overlooking the San Ramon Valley and beyond.
Danville Better Homes
925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$975,000
4 BD/3.5 BA on Piedmont side of Montclair. Single owner, never before on the market. Stunning views of the bay, bridge, SE. Secluded and private yard, great for entertaining. Well designed floor plan. Private lane to 2-car carport with interior access. Tons of potential. Needs TLC.
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

DANVILLE \$949,900
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SPORTS

• Friday, February 13, 2004 •

Section C

Summers' season of perfection: 23-0

Berkeley's junior wrestler captures the girls' state title at 162 pounds (what else?) a pin

By Bill Kolb
STAFF WRITER
ALLEJO — Unbeatable? Emphatically. Berkeley High School wrestler Summers maintained her run through the girls' state championship season on Saturday at the California Girls State Wrestling Championships at the University of California High School, adding two pins to her already budding total.

Summers, a junior, has wrestled 23 times this season. She is 23-0. She has 23 pins.

Read that last sentence again. That's right, Summers is 23-0 with 23 pins.

Only once has she gone into the second round this year — against the girl she beat Saturday for the state title, Rachel Knight of Etna. Last week in the state qualifying tournament at San Leandro, Knight battled Summers to a stalemate through the first two minutes of 162-pound action, only to get tossed on her back and pinned 46 seconds into the second period.

Berkeley girls coach Hugh Johnson appreciates what he has in Summers.

"It's a real treat to be able to

work with elite level girls," Johnson said. "It's kind of a kick."

In the state final, Summers and Knight spent a good minute sizing each other up before things got interesting. Much to her credit, Knight shot a nice single-leg on Summers, but was unable to do anything with it.

Summers quickly countered, wrapping Knight up with her devastating head-and-arm 1:20 into the first period, flipping her on her back and pinning her at 1:23.

It is Summers' first state championship.

"It's cool," she said after the match. "Since we had a qualifier, this year is better than last year."

Summers, who opted out of last year's tournament, was re-

ferring to the fact that, for the first time in the four-year history of the event, the Girls State Championship was not an all-comers occasion. Wrestlers were forced to compete in regional qualifying tournaments to earn the right to compete for a state crown.

More than 200 wrestlers from 137 teams across the state qualified and competed in Saturday's championships.

"It's hard to get too excited about it because I kind of expected it," Johnson said of Summers' title. "But this tournament is getting better and better. Winning it at any weight is pretty prestigious."

See WRESTLING, Page 2



LILY DORMAN, right, of Berkeley closes in on a pin of Amador Valley's Lauren Neves in their third-place match at 116 pounds.

AL NOTEBOOK

League's a power in boys basketball

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER
WILL BE hard to top what the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League did in boys basketball. The ACCAL had two teams in the North Coast Section titles in Division III and Division IV and advanced to California Interscholastic Federation regional competition along with the aforementioned two teams in Division I). This year's ACCAL boys basketball teams are also very strong as a whole. Four teams are entering this week's playoffs: Berkeley, Pinole Valley, El Cerrito, and Richmond, and another (Merced) would have a shot at an overall record if not for forfeits of wins earned this season because of the ineligible player. It would argue that our league is one of the top public leagues in Northern California. Pinole Valley coach Deluca said, "We have all the top players in the league alone." Deluca was referring to players Tim Pierce, Berkeley's Lowhorn and Richmond's Wendell McKines. In games entering this season, Lowhorn is averaging 27.1 points per game and McKines is averaging 24.4 points per game. Pierce is averaging 22.1 points per game.

See ACCAL, Page 2

AL NOTEBOOK

Pressnall not impressed by journey win

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER
TEVE PRESSNALL of the Albany High School wrestling team doesn't think the words when he believes he is not up to snuff. He even after pulling out an injury to take first place at Saturday's Mission San Jose Invitational. Pressnall remained his worst critic. "I didn't wrestle very well," Pressnall (137) said after a 7-5 win in the finals over Haygood of Gilroy. "I thought I didn't think I could win."

Pressnall went 4-0 on the year in the process, aggregating several calluses on the back of his left foot. He turned into painful blisters before his finals match, Pressnall said it was difficult to win. He had very limited mobility. And he showed. He went to a 0-0 tie after one minute and then trailed 2-0 after the first minute. But he showed no quit, he came back for a 5-3 lead after the first minute left in the second round. Pressnall couldn't hold the lead. Haygood scored a take down in the overtime. Pressnall didn't let it get him down.

See BSAL, Page 2

PREP BOYS SOCCER



BEREAN CHRISTIAN'S Loren Baker, left, arches his body to avoid getting kicked by Albany's Christopher Jones during the teams' 0-0 tie.

Scoreless tie keeps race tight

■ Albany and Berean Christian play to a standoff in key BSAL match

By Curtis Pashelka
STAFF WRITER

Some team eventually is going to break away from the pack in the Bay Shore Athletic League boys soccer standings, right?

Right?

It didn't happen Friday, as host Berean Christian High School battled second-place Albany to a 0-0 tie to maintain its one-point lead in the BSAL. Third-place St. Mary's, meanwhile, moved to within three points of the Eagles with a 1-0 win over Kennedy.

The Eagles have two games left, the Cougars three and the Panthers four. The league champion gets an automatic berth to the North Coast Section 2A playoffs.

"I knew that any team (in the BSAL) can win at any point in time. That's the way it usually goes in soccer," Albany coach Kirtamba Douglas said. "I thought we could (be in first place) but that (2-1) loss to Piedmont (on Jan. 28) brought us back down. But we've come back to form the last couple of games."

Albany (15-4-2, 12-2-1 BSAL) tried to recapture the form it displayed during its 3-1 win over Berean Christian on Jan. 7. But the Eagles' defense, which recorded its fourth straight shutout, kept the Cougars from maintaining pressure in the first half.

Midway through the second half, a loose ball made its way to Eagles forward Stephen Mindrup about 15 yards from the Cougars net. But after dribbling from the left side went wide of the far post.

Albany responded three min-

utes later as Spenser Dill dished to Jacob Mayers 10 yards in front of the net. But Mayers didn't get everything he wanted on the shot, which was saved by Eagles goalkeeper Sage Weil.

Berean Christian (12-6-3, 12-2-2) had most of the play in the latter stages of the second half but was unable to solve Cougars goalkeeper Chris Cravens, who finished with nine saves.

"We played well, but (Albany's) got a good team. They pulled a lot of guys back on defense and we just couldn't get through it," Eagles coach Gary Weidenbach said. "It was everything I expected from our players."

Albany, Berean Christian and St. Mary's will jockey for important positioning in the final week of the regular season. Two teams from the BSAL made the NCS 2A playoffs last season (Kennedy and St. Mary's), but that could

change since 10 teams make the postseason as opposed to eight last year.

Berean Christian was considered for an at-large berth to last year's playoffs but lost the last spot to Miramonte, which went on to win the section title.

The Eagles players who were on last year's team still remember being snubbed and are hopeful history won't repeat itself if they fall out of first place.

"I think (it still bothers them), but they've had the vision this season," Weidenbach said. "Even with this tie, the league title is still up for grabs."

St. Mary's 1, Kennedy 0: Theo Addo-Otoo scored on a cross from Jason Hadley at the 27-minute mark to help keep the visiting Panthers in the Bay Shore Athletic League title hunt. St. Mary's is 13-4-2, 11-1-2 BSAL and Kennedy is 12-5-2, 11-4-1.

SOCCER NOTEBOOK

Local teams wait on NCS bids

By Curtis Pashelka

THE SEEDING MEETINGS for the North Coast Section 2A and 3A girls soccer playoffs begin at 9 a.m. Sunday at Las Lomas High School. Meetings for the 2A and 3A boys soccer playoffs are supposed to begin 90 minutes later.

Boy, the NCS has an awful sense of humor.

With so many teams vying for at-large berths to the postseason and only a handful of spots available in each playoff bracket, chances are the meetings this weekend (particularly the ones for 3A) will take a little longer than expected.

Here's a brief look at which teams might continue to play beyond this weekend, and which teams may be on the outside looking in.

3A boys

AUTOMATIC ENTRIES SO FAR: Amador Valley, De La Salle, Richmond.

GOOD BETS: Arroyo, California, Monte Vista, Washington.

ON THE BUBBLE: Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Clayton Valley, Granada, James Logan, Irvington, Newark Memorial, Pittsburg.

ANALYSIS: This meeting will be an absolute dogfight. The East Bay Athletic League can realistically expect to get three teams in, but a fourth might be a stretch. Alameda won the last head-to-head meeting with Berkeley and will finish ahead of the Yellow Jacks in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League standings. But Berkeley played a stronger nonleague schedule.

Bay Valley Athletic League foes Clayton Valley and Pittsburg played Thursday in what amounted to an elimination game. And from the Mission Valley Athletic League, Newark Memorial has a good chance as long as it beats James Logan in the first round of the league playoffs. The Colts and Irvington need to win the league tournament to get in. Washington's pretty much a lock regardless of whether it wins the MVAL tournament.

3A girls

AUTOMATIC ENTRIES SO FAR: Berkeley, Carondelet, San Ramon Valley.

GOOD BETS: Castro Valley, Foothill, Monte Vista, Washington.

ON THE BUBBLE: Alameda, Amador Valley, Arroyo, California, Clayton Valley, College Park, Irvington, San Leandro, James Logan, Livermore, Mission San Jose, Pinole Valley.

ANALYSIS: The second- and third-place teams from the EBAL are pretty much locks, but two or three other teams from that league also could get bids. Amador Valley and Livermore face do-or-die games Thursday. The Dons are 7-8-5 overall and 6-6-4 against 3A teams and must win their last game against Foothill. Livermore is 7-8-3 overall and 5-5-3 against 3A teams and needs to beat Granada. Teams must have winning records overall or against teams in their classification.

See SOCCER, Page 2

Top scorer's injury hurts Panthers

By Scott Strain
STAFF WRITER

PREP ROUNDUP

period.

"I stepped on somebody going for a loose ball and rolled the ankle," Gurganious said. "I came back into the game, but I couldn't get any movement or lift."

When Gurganious left the game, the St. Mary's offense went with him. The Panthers (18-6, 7-2 BSAL) scored only six points in the fourth quarter as the Pilots (19-6, 8-1) used a spread offense to take time off the clock. When St. Joseph did shoot (and miss), the Pilots got three offensive rebounds and the whole process started over.

A subpar Gurganious didn't help.

"The rest of the guys feed off his energy," St. Mary's coach Manny Nodar said his junior forward. "His absence really affected the way we played."

Even when Gurganious was healthy, the Pilots had a plan to prevent him from going off like he did in the first game. Gurganious scored 38 points, 27 in the second half, when St. Mary's won 66-58 on Jan. 9. It was St. Joseph's only BSAL loss.

"Every time he (Gurganious) touched the ball, we were going to have three guys around him,"

See PREP, Page 2



ST. JOSEPH'S Ron Lewis, rear, shoots over Dominic Green (33) and John Manente of St. Mary's.

Wrestling

FROM PAGE 1

Summers was a little more excited.

"I like (being a state champion)," Summers said. "I wouldn't like to get beat. I didn't want to lose one match. It's an ego thing, I guess. ... I set high goals for myself this year. I shot for an undefeated season, and I shot for

pins." And she got them. In fact, Summers is so dominant at 162 that other wrestlers in the state have either tried to drop down to 154 or bump up to 173 to avoid her. "(Knight) confirmed what other coaches have said," Johnson said. "A lot of girls dropped to other weights to avoid Jere." That's a pretty big compliment. Summers' teammate, 116-pounder Lily Dorman, also won

a medal on Saturday. Dorman, also a junior, dropped a tough 8-6 overtime decision to Balboa-San Francisco's Hanna Carlberg in the semifinals, but battled through the consolation semifinals and finished with a pin of Amador Valley's Lauren Neves at 2:57 to place third. "Lily has wrestled really well," Johnson said. "She pretty much handled all of her other opponents."

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

24.2 points per game. De Anza's Darius Foster is also averaging more than 20 points a game (21.5). Pinole Valley is paced by John Smith (18.3 points per game), and El Cerrito's Patrick Mitchell is averaging 16.2 points per game. "Our league will send four

teams to the playoffs and it would be five if Hercules didn't have the forfeits," DeLuca said. **ON THE RISE:** ACCAL girls basketball is also very competitive. There are three teams with winning overall records (El Cerrito, Pinole Valley, Alameda). Berkeley also has a winning overall record, but is not part of the ACCAL standings because of having competitive anomaly status.

"I think the league is getting a lot of credibility. It's not just Berkeley anymore," said El Cerrito coach Ron Williams. **GAME OF THE WEEK:** Pinole Valley at Hercules boys basketball, 4 p.m. Thursday — Look for a high-scoring matchup between two teams that combined for 217 points in their last game (a 111-106 Pinole Valley victory in three overtimes on Jan. 20).

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

however, as he scored the winning take down with 24 seconds left.

"He's up all the time, he didn't (let the tying points) get in his head," Cougars coach Kermit Bankson said.

But Pressnall saw the match differently.

"I felt like I was in a dream. I didn't want to make excuses, but sometimes when you win it's ugly. You just have to find a way to win," he said.

In addition, the win was Pressnall's fourth tournament victory of the season and raised his record to 32-3.

Pressnall wasn't the only Cougar to place at Mission San Jose. Kofi Yiadom (142) went 3-2 for sixth place.

FIRST WIN OF THE YEAR

It wasn't pretty, but it was effective. In a match that featured 11 forfeits, the John Swett wrestling team posted its first Bay Shore Athletic League

win of the season on Feb. 5 in a dual match with Athenian.

"It was a big win for us. We only have eight wrestlers on the team, so it's nice to wrestle somebody our own size," Indians coach Sid Jensen said.

With all the forfeits, it's probably no surprise that a forfeit was the difference for the Indians.

According to Jensen, the Indians were down 30-27 with only the heavyweights left. Rick Williams won by forfeit.

But the night was not devoid of some impressive performances, such as Kyle Lewis, a freshman at 147, who pinned Cameron White at 3:16. And there's John Massaro (154) who pulled off a last second escape for a 10-9 win over Nate Kane.

"He just kept moving, that was the key. But if he didn't give up a reversal to tie it up, he wouldn't have had to move so much," Jensen joked.

COUGARS ON THE PROWL

The Albany girls soccer team caused quite a stir in the

BSAL by going unbeaten in its last four matches to start the week. During that span, the Cougars' most notable performance came in a 2-1 upset win over Berean Christian on Feb. 6.

"That was big. I hope that will get us an at-large bid," Cougars coach Iz Dalvand said. "It's starting to sink in that they have to play to the next level."

Starting play that day, the Eagles were in first place in the BSAL, but that wouldn't be the case for long as the loss allowed Piedmont to leap frog in front with 43 points to Berean Christian's 41.

It also took a strange play in Albany's favor to put the Eagles away.

With the score tied 1-1 in the 61st minute, the Eagles goalkeeper misplayed a long ball by Clare Kruger. The tricky hop bounced over the goalkeeper and into the net.

"If you were there, you wouldn't know which team was in first place," Dalvand said.

Prep

FROM PAGE 1

Pilots coach Don Lippi said. "We didn't want him to go off on a run like he did the first time."

Yet it almost happened. Gurganious scored eight points in the second quarter and St. Mary's had a 9-0 run that cut the St. Joseph lead from 29-16 to 29-25 with 38 seconds left in the half. The Pilots led 32-25 at the half. Alex Harris, the St. Joseph scoring leader, had a subpar

game, scoring just 12 points and hitting just two field goals. Forward Ron Lewis scored 12 of his team-high 16 points in the first quarter as the Pilots took a 19-11 lead.

BOYS SOCCER

Albany 1, St. Mary's 0: The host Cougars bolted into the Bay Shore Athletic League lead with a game-winning goal from Jake Mayers in the 59th minute. Albany (13-2-1 BSAL) leads with 40 points. St. Mary's (14-5-2, 12-2-2 BSAL) and Berean Christian (12-2-2 BSAL) are tied for sec-

ond with 38 points. "This win was very big. Destiny is in our own hands now. I think we're the best team in the league and hopefully we can finish strong," Cougars coach Kitamba Douglas said.

*Times staff writer Jennifer Starks contributed to this roundup.

ON DECK

JC women's basketball

■ **Contra Costa at Santa Rosa**, 6 p.m. tonight — The Bear Cubs handed the Comets their only Bay Valley Conference loss in a 65-59 game on Jan. 20.

Prep girls basketball

■ **Berkeley at St. Mary's**, 4 p.m. Saturday — Speaking of classics, these two teams had a doozy last season: St. Mary's 63, Berkeley 62 in three overtimes. ■ **St. Mary's at Piedmont**, 6 p.m. Tuesday — Showdown No. 2 for these two Bay Shore Athletic League powerhouse teams. The Highlanders edged the Panthers 47-43 on Jan. 21.

Prep boys soccer

■ **Albany at Kennedy**, 3:30 p.m. today — This game could be pivotal in the Cougars' quest for the

BSAL crown.

Prep wrestling

■ **BSAL championships**, 4 p.m. today — Albany is the team favorite, but Berkeley also has a couple of wrestlers to watch in Carlo Cornejo and Alphonso Thomas.

Stars of the week

■ **Jere Summers**, Berkeley girls wrestling — Summers won the 162-pound title at the California Girls State Wrestling Championships, improving her record this season to 23-0 against both boys and girls with 23 pins. Summers pinned Etna's Rachel Knight at 1:23 of the championship match.

■ **Steven Pressnall**, Albany boys wrestling — Pressnall won the 137-pound title at the Mission San Jose Invitational 7-5 in overtime over Gilroy's Chad Haygood.

■ **Shavajale James**, Berkeley girls basketball — James had a winning shot with one second remaining to lift the Yellowjackets to a 50-49 victory over Alameda. James scored a team-high 14 points in Berkeley's win. ■ **Patrick Mitchell**, El Cerrito boys basketball — Mitchell scored a high 23 points as the Cougars edged the Redskins 70-67. He also had a key layup in the final minute, including a free throw, to lift the Cougars to a 75-69 loss to Berkeley. ■ **Larry Gurganious**, St. Joseph boys basketball — Gurganious scored a team-high 20 points and had four rebounds in the Panthers' 41-20 win over Kennedy.

BRIEFS

Basketball spring development league

Tri-Valley Elite, an AAU sanctioned basketball club, is taking registrations for grades 3-9 for its spring development league. The season runs April 23-May 15 on Friday evenings for grades 3-5 from 4:30-6:45 p.m. and grades 6-9 from 7-9 p.m. at Ohlone College in Fremont. The cost is \$100 and includes a game jersey. 925-829-4059 or rh94583@scglobal.net.

Cal Lacrosse mini-camp

Cal Berkeley's Women's Lacrosse Team will be hosting a President's Weekend mini-camp for all levels Feb. 14-16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$175. 510-643-4511, mbnoel@uclink.berkeley.edu or www.calberlax.com.

Valley Elite basketball tournaments

The Valley Elite will be hosting three girls basketball tournaments: The Valley Elite Winter Classic, Feb. 28-29 in Manteca for grades 5-8; The Valley Elite Spring Classic, April 17-18 in Tracy for 10-under-17 under, and Hoops By the Bay, June 19-20 in Alameda for 12-under-17 under. The cost is \$250 per team. 209-836-5372, hoops4us@comcast.net or leaguehouse@valleyelite.com.

Fremont Force softball seeks players

Fremont Force girls tournament fastpitch 16-under and 18-under softball teams are looking for players for all positions. 510-918-0773.

NAYS tourney

North American Youth Sports will be holding their annual spring youth basketball tournament in 10 different brackets for boys and girls in grades 5-12 at Boys and Girls Clubs of Merito Park and Redwood City April 24. Entry fee is \$120 and guarantees a minimum of two

games. Entry deadline is March 12. For information call 800-787-3265 or director Erin Hazard at 650-497-0302.

Pee wee tennis classes

El Cerrito Community Center will be offering pee wee tennis classes for ages 3½-6 Wednesdays through Feb. 27 from 3:15-4 p.m. at the Cerrito Vista Tennis Courts, Avis at Mooser. The cost is \$28 for residents or \$35

for non-residents.

Baseball clinic

All Pro Baseball is holding an advanced fielding clinic for ages 10-14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Park in Berkeley. The clinic is free and current major league players will provide instruction.

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Soccer

FROM PAGE 1

If either or both of those teams falter, teams in other leagues benefit as there may only be five at-large spots available.

2A boys

AUTOMATIC ENTRIES: None, yet.

GOOD BETS: Acalanes, Albany, Berean Christian, Bishop O'Dowd, Las Lomas, Miramonte, St. Mary's, Ygnacio Valley.

ON THE BUBBLE: Concord, Encinal, Kennedy-Richmond, San Lorenzo.

ANALYSIS: You're likely to see at least three teams from both the Bay Shore Athletic League and the Diablo Foothill Athletic League get in, and a fourth from each league may

not be out of the question. Concord may have played its way in by going 4-0-1 since Jan. 25.

2A girls

AUTOMATIC ENTRIES: None, yet.

GOOD BETS: Acalanes, Berean Christian, Bishop O'Dowd, Campolindo, Dublin, Piedmont, Salesian. **ON THE BUBBLE:** Alameda, Albany, El Cerrito, Encinal, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Moreau Catholic, Northgate.

ANALYSIS: DFAL teams dominate this bracket like EBAL teams dominate the 3A girls bracket, with as many as six teams hoping to get in. If the DFAL is perceived by the three-member seeding panel as the strongest league, the ACCAL and BSAL will suffer.

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Fickle 'Dates' appealing on several levels

■ Crude jokes will no doubt draw fans of bathroom humor, but sweethearts will be charmed by its love story

By Glenn Lovell
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

The comically challenged Adam Sandler remains a "kinda" superstar. He's kinda funny. Kinda cruel. Kinda stupid. Kinda cool (well, in a kinda nerdy sort of way).

It makes sense, then, that his latest vehicle, "50 First Dates" — co-starring Drew Barrymore as his enchanted sweetheart and Rob Schneider as his Hawaiian-doper sidekick — is a kinda romantic comedy that fuses the inane idiosyncrasy of "Happy Gilmore" and the cockeyed sentiment of

"Punch-Drunk Love," still Sandler's best film.

In other words, "50 First Dates" is the perfect date movie, one that should appeal to teens into Sandler's mean-spirited shtick, while drawing coos and oohs from those traditionalists drawn to something softer, dreamier. It may taste like creme de menthe chased with kerosene, but, if a recent preview screening is any indication, it should go down nicely, making it the new box-office champ.

Directed by Peter Segal ("Anger Management," also with Sandler), written by George Wing and set against the kind of luscious Hawaiian scenery we haven't seen since Elvis paddled ashore, this comedy can best be described as an exotic, inside-out "Groundhog Day."

Sandler plays Henry Roth, a

marine-park veterinarian who's also something of a cold-fish womanizer. Barrymore is Lucy Whitmore, an art teacher who, thanks to a head injury from a recent car crash, suffers short-term memory loss.

Lucy remembers everything up to the Thanksgiving Day crash, but is stuck in a kind of memory loop where she perpetually relives a safer version of that day, orchestrated by her father (Blake Clark) and her lisper, bodybuilder brother (Sean Astin). Twenty-four hours later, however, the slate is wiped clean, and with it all memory of anyone she's just met.

The lascivious, brain-dead Ula (Schneider, setting back Hawaiian-haole relations half a century) instantly scopes out the benefits of such a handicap. "She's the perfect girl for you ...

no attachment!" he reminds his buddy.

This is now, of course, the opposite of what Henry wants. He's fallen head-over-heels for a woman he has to woo and win every day. He's Sir Galahad stuck on instant replay and, like Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day," he shrewdly builds on whatever he has learned about his true love to ensure that the next day's courtship is more efficient.

Inevitably, everyone wises up, and a video camera and diary are introduced. With the help of these aids, Lucy receives a daily crash course in her life. Here, "50 First Dates" stows the scatological jokes and turns seriously romantic. Henry, ukulele in hand, serenades Lucy before cartwheeling dolphins and, with the heart of a lovesick marathoner, charges second base. Lucy's re-

sponse: "There's no future with me."

The last third of "50 First Dates" is so sweet, you'll wish the setup and comedy relief weren't so drawn out and crude. Henry's profession, we quickly realize, is but an elaborate excuse for the Marine World equivalent of sex and flatulence jokes. Jacko the Walrus, right on cue, delivers a blast of projectile vomit that's held for an extra beat or two, just so we and his target get the messy message.

Alexa (Lusia Strus), Henry's frisky assistant of indeterminate gender, and Ula, a caricature of every Hawaiian beach bum, deliver the rest of the surefire laughs. Ditto 10 Second Tom (Allen Covert), who suffers from a more extreme version of Lucy's syndrome. Tom is introduced during a tour of a Honolulu hos-

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "50 First Dates"
■ **STARRING:** Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Rob Schneider, Dan Aykroyd
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (language, crude humor)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 97 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opena theaters
■ **GRADE:** B-

pital conducted by a specialist (Dan Aykroyd rather flat cameo).

Think of this slush, might the pre-show and gouged concourse. They pay the bills so Barrymore — Mr. Goldilocks? — can the pouring rain and sail for more fanfare.

Grab a date and You could do worse time's Day.

Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

Simple and small, but this film has a special shimmer about it. — M. Pols. (R: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. A

"MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD": From director Peter Weir, a beautiful and brawny rendition of Patrick O'Brian's tales of friendship and adventure on the high seas in the early 19th century. A British war ship pursues a high-tech (for the times) French ship from Brazil to the Galapagos Islands. Russell Crowe makes an able Captain Jack Aubrey and Paul Bettany an endearing Stephen Maturin, the ship's surgeon, a pacifist and Jack's best friend. The action sequences are first-rate, and the tender affection between the men aboard is something rarely seen in movies. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense battle sequences, related images and brief language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

"THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS": It takes a lot of forgiving and forgetting to derive any pleasure from this final chapter in the stylish man-vs.-machine trilogy. You have to let go of disappointment over "Reloaded," the second installment released earlier this year; you must overlook a truly hideous opening hour; and you have to forget the first "Matrix," an exhilarating experience that never succumbed, as this does, to self-conscious solemnity, senseless riddles and protracted death scenes. — P. Flowers. (R: sci-fi violence, brief sexual content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. C

"MIRACLE": The perennially underappreciated Kurt Russell gives an assured, intelligent performance as coach Herb Brooks in this well-made film about the 1980 Olympic gold-medal-winning U.S. hockey team. Director Gavin O'Connor sensibly cast real hockey players, recruited from colleges and some pro teams. As a result, the on-ice action feels genuinely exciting. — M. Pols. (PG: language and some rough sports action.) 2 hours, 16 minutes. B+

"MONSTER": Charlize Theron pulls off the year's most astounding screen makeover as Aileen Wuornos, the notorious Florida murderer. Director Patty Jenkins uncovers the lost, love-starved child cowering under the killer's hard shell. Wuornos, who confessed to murdering six men in the late 1980s and early '90s, died in the electric chair in 2002. By the time the movie begins, Wuornos has piled her trade for years as a hitchhiking low-rent prostitute working the highways of central Florida. The film focuses on her desperate, last-ditch relationship with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B+

"MY ARCHITECT": A documentary about Nathaniel Kahn's odyssey to learn more about his father, famous architect Louis Kahn, who had three different families with three women, two of them secretly. A graceful and touching exploration of the importance of fatherhood that also leaves us with a new appreciation for the architect's work. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 56 minutes. A-

"MYSTIC RIVER": There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direction. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

"THE PERFECT SCORE": At first, it seems to be a relatively edgy teen comedy about six high school students who challenge the take-the-SAT-or-take-the-highway college admissions system by swiping the test instead of actually boning up for it. But it tries to have it both ways, and its beat-the-corrupt-system theme morphs into Learn a Valuable Lesson. The cast, including Scarlett Johansson and the very funny Leonardo Nam, do what they can to keep things lively. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, sexual content, some drug references.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

"PETER PAN": A lavish spectacle

with a bittersweet core; an old-fashioned family treat. P.J. Hogan ("My Best Friend's Wedding") may have created a classic of his own, by staying true to J.M. Barrie's beloved source material. Peter Pan is played by a boy, which is refreshing, and this Wendy has more dimension than most. — M. Pols. (PG: action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. B+

"PIECES OF APRIL": With a theme about a dying mother (Patricia Clarkson), an estranged daughter (Katie Holmes), and a Thanksgiving dinner reunion, this film from writer/director Peter Hedges has the potential to be as cloying as sweet potato pie. But Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape") gracefully dodges that bullet, delivering a movie that manages to be darkly funny and deeply touching at the same time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. A-

"THE SAME RIVER TWICE": A piercingly poignant then-and-now portrait of five friends who worked as summer guides on the Colorado River. In 1978, Robb Moss made a short 16mm movie, "Riverdogs," which recorded a monthlong communal trip down the Colorado. Excerpts from that film make up the "then" portions of this documentary. In cutting back and forth between then and now, Moss is more interested in contrasting the moods and textures of life at different ages and eras than at compiling a documentary history. — S. Holden. (Not rated; includes some nudity.) 1 hour, 18 minutes. B

"SECRET THINGS": No dull start here: Not with a naked woman pleasuring herself in bed — which turns out to be part of a routine for a

nightclub audience. French filmmaker Jean-Claude Brisseau, an art-house bad boy in France, wants to appreciate this as a sort of high class/trashy romp opera that is also an allegory about gender power, or bourgeois decadence. Or something. But don't think of it as a primo lesbian-action flick. Then it wouldn't be art. — D. Thomson. (Not rated; contains explicit sex and nudity, violence and obscenity.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C-

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE": When making a love story, you've got to consider the kissability of your stars. Watching this movie, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to smooch the male lead. That would be Jack Nicholson, as a raffish music executive who starts out dating a young woman (Amanda Peet), but finds himself falling for her mother (Diane Keaton). This was an opportunity to make a statement about truly adult romance, but director Nancy Meyers blows it. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, brief nudity, strong language.) C

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, grieving mother and chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their antisocial tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

"TOUCHING THE VOID": Two climbers go up a mountain in Peru. One breaks his leg and must be lowered by his partner. When the

rope leaves the injured man dangling helpless and hopeless over a crevasse, his partner makes the decision to cut the rope to save his own life. This compelling documentary, featuring interviews with the survivors and re-creations of the climb using actors, is agonizingly suspenseful, even though we know the remarkable outcome from the get-go. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE": The film's two lines of intelligible dialogue have been dubbed into English. Its sensibility, however, remains irreducibly French. The overture is a black-and-white spectacle: naughty, exuberant and a little creepy. It introduces the Triplets of the title, a trio of gangly, cloche-wearing scat singers. The story is too bizarre and wonderful to summarize, but it winds up in Belleville, a Manhattan-like dream city. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: some violent and frightening scenes.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. A

"21 GRAMS": Like Mexican director Gonzalez Inarritu's last film, "Amores Perros," this one is about the ways tragedy (in this case a car accident) creates an unstoppable emotional maelstrom for those involved. Its arty, choppy style distracts from the truth: that the film is permeated with melodrama and not as deep as it seems. Sean Penn is great in the lead, but better in "Mystic River." — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. B-

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Events

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LA PEÑA CULTURAL CENTER —

"Love Fest 2004: A Literary and Musical Celebration of Love," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Hosted by Aya de Leon with Melissa Canales, Shawn Taylor, James Kassi, Corina Peña, Kim Cook, Nonameko and Elaine Chao. \$10 to \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE —

"Ten Times Table," through Feb. 28. A comedy about an inept group of villagers who try to organize a commemorative pageant about the 17th-century "Massacre of the Pardon Twelve."

\$13. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. 105 Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-232-4031 or www.masquers.org.

OAKLAND BOX THEATER —

"The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open-mike poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to get to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team.

\$10. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

PLAYGROUND —

"Monday Night Playground," Feb. 16, 8 p.m. A monthly presentation of short works from new and emerging playwrights.

\$12 general; \$6 students. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 415-704-3177 or www.playground-st.org.

TRANSPARENT THEATER —

"S. Francisco Noir: Stories of Dashiell Hammett" by Tom Clyde, Feb. 19 through March 21. The story of a multi-ethnic detective who dives into the underbelly of San Francisco circa 1927, dealing with houses of ill repute on Telegraph Hill, Chinatown side streets and back-office detectives at the Hall of Justice.

\$25. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-0305 or www.transparenttheater.org.

POPULAR MUSIC

ALBATROSS PUB —

Larry Stelf Jazz Quartet, Feb. 14, \$3. Whiskey Brothers, Feb. 18. Free. Unless otherwise noted, shows begin Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com.

ASHKENAZ —

Alfro-Muzika, Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Courtauld, Feb. 17, 8:30 p.m. \$9. Brenda Boykin and Big Soul Country, Feb. 18, 9 p.m. Swing dance lessons, 8 p.m. \$9.

Mutabaraka, Feb. 19, 9 p.m. \$15. Johnny Nocturne and Mz. Dee, Feb. 20, 9:30 p.m. Swing dance lessons, 8 p.m. \$13.

Zydeco Flames, Feb. 21, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Hot Buttered Rum String Band, Bluegrass Intentions, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. \$10 to \$20.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB —

Seventy, Feb. 13. Rock 'n' Roll with Nicole, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21. Nicole and the Sisters in Soul, Feb. 18. Medicine Ball Band, Feb. 19. The Harrington Band, Feb. 20. Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at

9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH —

Acoustic Wednesday with Miki Lee Prasad and guests, Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Free.

The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays, \$4.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com.

DOWNTOWN —

Brian Melvin, Feb. 13. The Ned Boynton Combo, Feb. 14. Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Feb. 17. Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, Feb. 18.

Ken El Lebrjano Flamenco Guitar, Feb. 19.

Joshi Marshall, Feb. 20.

Rhonda Benin and Soullful Strut, Feb. 21.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday at 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com.

ELIS MILE HIGH CLUB —

For all ages unless otherwise noted. Jimmy McCracklin, Feb. 13, \$15. Zakya Hooker, Feb. 14, \$15. Charles Wheel, Feb. 19, \$5. Craig Horton, Feb. 20, \$10. John Lawton, Feb. 21, \$10.

All shows begin at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-655-6161 or www.elisblues.com.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE —

Tom Paxton, Feb. 13, \$20.50 to \$21.50. The House Jacks, Feb. 14, \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Noe Venable, Feb. 15, \$15.50 to \$16.50. Jamie Laval, Feb. 18, \$15.50 to \$16.50. Cheryl Wheeler, Feb. 19, \$18.50 to \$19.50.

Junius Courtney, Denise Perrier, Feb. 20, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

The Darol Anger Fiddle Ensemble, Feb. 21, \$16.50 to \$17.50.

The Bluehouse, Aengus Finnian, Feb. 22, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, 866-468-3399 or www.freightandsalvage.org.

GRAND LAKE FARMERS MARKET ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE —

The entertainers perform continuously during the market hours. At Splash Pad Plaza.

Feb. 14: East Bay Stompers

Feb. 21: David Gans

Free. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Splash Pad Park, Grand and Lake Park avenues, Oakland. 510-451-6537 or www.geoties.com/splashpad.

JAZZ HOUSE —

Fred Frith and Klip Trio, Feb. 15, 8:15 p.m. Free.

Luc Houtkamp and Friends, Feb. 16, \$10 to \$15.

Boxes of Water, Phillip Greenleaf, Feb. 20, \$8 to \$15.

Guarnes Jazz Quartet, Feb. 21, \$8 to \$15.

Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley. 415-846-9432 or www.jazzhouse.org.

JAZZ SCHOOL —

SoVoSo, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

Taylor Eigsti Trio, Feb. 15, 4:30 p.m. \$10 to \$15.

Soul Sauce, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$15.

Frank Martin Trio featuring Alex Acuna and Abraham Laboriell, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

Hardyman Hall, The Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com.

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS —

"Third Annual Valentine's Day Cabaret," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. A benefit for the Julia Morgan Center. \$30 to \$35.

Joji Hirota and the Taiko Drummers, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. \$20.

2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org.

KIMBALLS EAST —

ConFunkShun, Feb. 13 through Feb. 15.

\$30. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PEÑA CULTURAL CENTER —

Rafael Manriquez and Voz e Vento, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.

\$10 to \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB —

Houston and Jones, The Badger, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. A Valentine's Day potluck.

Cabin Fever, Feb. 21, 8 p.m.

\$5. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or www.mcgrathspub.com.

924 GILMAN ST. —

The Frisk, Mid-nights, Feb. 13.

Reality Crisis, Rotary Beginners, Leperden Totem, Deadfall, Feb. 14.

Counterfeit, Park, Over It, Plans for Revenge, Feb. 15, 5 p.m.

Hep Si, New Earth Creeps, The Morbids, Leopard Life, Feb. 20.

All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9928 or www.924gilman.org.

OAKLAND BOX THEATER —

Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series, 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$1000.

1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE —

Erykah Badu, Floetry, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. \$39.50 to \$75.50.

"Valentine's Day Love Serenade," Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring The Whispers and Peabo Bryson. \$42.50 to \$75.

Sting, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. \$52.50 to \$98.50.

Ginuwine, Jagged Edge, Joe, Avant, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. \$45.50 to \$75.50.

2025 Broadway, Oakland. 925-685-TIXS. 510-625-TIXS. 415-421-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com.

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE —

The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050.

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW —

La Verdad, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. \$15 general; \$10 students.

Brown Baggin', Feb. 20, 9 p.m. \$7.

Foreign Legion, Feb. 21, 9:30 p.m. \$10 general; \$7 students.

Live Salsa Night, Wednesday, 8 p.m. \$10.

For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB —

"My Bloody Valentine Bash," Feb. 13. Featuring Ned, Ramona The Pest, She Mob, The Shut-Ins, The Slow Poisoners, Feb. 13, \$7.

The Solution, Mushroom, Feb. 14, \$5.

Steve Poltz, Feb. 19, \$12.

7th Direction, Belleville, Feb. 20, \$5.

The Cushion Theory, Love Kills Love, Subincision, Jacuzzi, Feb. 21. All ages welcome. \$6.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

YOSHIS' —

The Tony Williams Project, through Feb. 15, \$12 to \$26.

DVC Night Jazz Band, Feb. 16, \$10.

Stanford Jazz Orchestra Benefit, Feb. 17, \$25 to \$50.

Benny Velarde y Super Combo, Feb. 18, \$12.

Billy Cobham and The Art of Five, Feb. 19 through Feb. 22, \$10 to \$24.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. www.yoshis.com or www.ticketweb.com.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA —

"Berkeley Choral Festival," Feb. 18, 8 p.m. The program will bring local high school choruses together with the symphony, and will include music by Copland, Bernstein, Meredith Monk, Randall Thompson, Jonathan

Russell and Michael Dougherty, \$21 to \$45 general; \$10 students.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-2800 or www.berkeley-symphony.org.

CAL PERFORMANCES —

Venice Baroque Orchestra, Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring Andrea Marcon, harpsichord. Performing Handel's "Siroe." \$36 to \$56.

Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano with Sergio Cioffi, piano, Feb. 15, 3 p.m. \$50 to \$250.

Yehm Bronfman, piano, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. Performing music by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. \$32 to \$56.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperforms.berkeley.edu.

See EVENTS, Page C6



Berkeley City Club

Thursday, March 4, 2004

No host cocktails: 6:00 P.M.

Dinner: 7:00 P.M.

Program: 8:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$100

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- RACK....SHATTUCK & KITTREDGE
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The West Alameda Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday, 9:30 am - 1 pm Year round, rain or shine, and is located at Webster & Taylor.



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Calendar

to the Community Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Albany, 94708. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Children

Penish offers preschool for children ages two and three years with parents at Toyon Park, 1361 Solano Ave., Albany, 94706. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Skills and Man-agement classes are offered in Albany for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays for four weeks. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Support Group meets twice a month on Wednesdays at the Albany Resource Center, 1361 Solano Ave., Albany, 94706. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Books from the Berkeley Community Center are available for loan. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Special programs are offered for children from 22 months to 5 years old. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Children's Center of Berkeley offers first time mothers and babies under 5 months. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Class

Senior Center 2939 offers a free aerobic, stretching fitness class for seniors. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Community

Free Saturday classes are offered at the Albany Resource Center, 1361 Solano Ave., Albany, 94706. Call 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

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Overeaters Anonymous meet Fri days at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues. In Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701

"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lupton, 644-8292.

Exhibits

The color photography of Stephen Palmer, UC Berkeley professor of Cognitive Science, will be on display in an exhibit entitled "The Art of Perception" at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, from through April 18. These photographs highlight unusual visual situations such as geometric structure and symmetry in natural patterns and striking color contrasts between figure and ground. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday. A reception for the artist will be held Jan 25 from 4-6 p.m.

The exhibit Early Women of Berkeley (1878-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, celebrates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. At the Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. Details: 848-0181. Admission free.

Fun/dance stage

The Kent Actors presents the play "Kop Ask Vardi (There Was Always Love)," by Turkish playwright Yildiz Kenter, at 6 p.m. Feb. 15, at the Julian Morgan Center for the Arts. Admission: \$48 adults, \$35 students, seniors and \$15 children. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, visit www.juliamorgan.org or www.laximnights.com

Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kams Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-1130

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kams Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542

Family Folkdancing takes place the third Sunday, 1:20-3 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a

sprint of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3 children \$2. Details: 632-3713

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marango at 528-7858

Health

YWCA Health and Community Education, drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10

Learning

The Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., a non-profit private social club, offers a **weekly yoga class** for seniors from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday's. The class taught by Rosie Linsky, who at age 72, has practiced yoga for over 40 years. Open to non-members for \$8 a class. For more information, call Karen Ray, at 848-7800

Berkeley Adult School offers ceramics classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn at 525-5497

St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center in Berkeley offers classes in exercise, hand-built ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing and tap dancing. There are speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are always welcome. Lunch and friendly conversation are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley, Call 845-6830 for time and schedules

Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse clicks, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. All classes Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up

The Albany Library, 1247 Mann Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruction Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teach-

ers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19

Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library) Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply). \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harter, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

Assets Senior Employment offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., offers family-friendly program classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into everyday lives. Details: 845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org

The Berkeley Adult School offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be used to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and introductory and advanced computer classes. Details: 644-6130

Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday

mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time

Berkeley Community Media, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarajali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054 n Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6830

Dance and fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information 848-6370

Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

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"Zagat San Francisco Bay Restaurants 2004," by Zagat editors (Zagat Guides, \$12.95)
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"Stitch 'n Bitch: The Knitter's Handbook," by Debbie Stoller (Workman, \$13.95)
"The Four Agreements," by Don Miguel Ruiz (Amber-Allen, \$12.95)
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EVENTS

AMERICAN MUSEUM AND GALLERY — "Gandhi, King and Ikeda: A Panel Exhibit that Celebrates the lives, actions and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Ikeda Daisaku Ikeda." Through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. 14th St. Oakland. 510-763-0141 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.
ALAMEDA MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection of Alameda County's history is on display in the only rotating gallery showing Alameda artists and students, as well as souvenirs. Through Friday, 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 24 Alameda Ave., Alameda.

WORKS

PAGE C10

A policeman in front of the Berkeley Police Department. An Artworks project to the giant "Cheemah" (bird and woman figures) by the famous Jack London. The famous "Macchi" outside UC Berkeley's Sather Hall were re-cast in 2001, and the seal that had Sausalito's beachfront was recently restored to its original glory by Artworks.

Artworks produced Kim Duffin, a 10-foot Hawaiian dancer, to grace the entrance to the Sather Hall, as well as Janice Sawyer's bust commemorating Hawaiian music legend Ika. Closer to home, Alameda Firefighters Memorial also originated in the flames of West.

The storage yard has become a museum in itself — the last one outside of San Francisco's De Young Museum here, as does a giant of Charlie Parker's head known as "Bird" — 10 by 8 by 10 — in Kansas City, his piece. A giant life-guard and a 10-foot high, awaits final approval for Southern California's Imperial Beach community.

has since moved back to its own property on occasion. Sandy, whose giant bronze statue operates the gallery while Dale Smith serves as president and owner. The gallery does host a house per year, when

510-521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org.
EBONY MUSEUM OF ART — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St. Oakland. 510-763-0141.
GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM — CLOSED FOR THE WINTER.
HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health. "Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned. "Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies. "Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.
SPECIAL EVENT — Free Puppet Show.



THIS 18-FOOT TALL Cheemah statue was created at Artworks.

the public can view the magic of the pour after dark. For one brief moment, you're transported back thousands of years, when we first learned to use wax, fire and precious metals to mold something

ReadyMade

FROM PAGE C10

While budget is definitely a consideration with many of ReadyMade's DIY projects, most offer a range of price tags and skill levels. Witty infographics outline time, money and materials required for each creation. They also mark skill levels in terms of how we can understand — the scale of human evolution — ranging from a monkey with opposable thumbs to the Cro-Magnon, (who has some tools and basic knowledge of how to use them) to the tool-head craftsman.

Projects are as elementary as curling a toothbrush that's been softened in boiling water and affixing it to a suction cup to make a funky toothbrush holder, to more elaborate projects that take you step by step through growing your own plant couch. (Visually, it's a quirky stunner in a garden or back yard. It's unclear how it would fare for extended use by couch potatoes out there.)

Not only can you cultivate an eclectic style in your home, but most of the DIY projects are eco-friendly. Though numerous projects call for the purchase of simple, brand-new items, such as clothes pins, many more simply require a jaunt through your favorite thrift store or swap meet.

"We're trying to change people's mind-set about the whole product cycle and how disposable our society has become," said Berger.

Each issue offers The McGyver Recycle Challenge, daring readers to reinvent something out of such commonplace objects as an old rotary telephone or has-been light bulbs. Past winners included a Rolodex phone and salt-and-pepper-shaker light bulbs.

Such reader ingenuity comes as no surprise. The magazine owes more than half of its DIY projects to reader submissions. That's right, people like you and me, Average Joes blessed with a few moments of ingenuity.

"It's a world in which ingenuity is bred by necessity," says Berger, a self-proclaimed natural-born tinkerer. "When people don't have much, they have to be creative."

To complement the projects submitted by clever readers, Berger, Hawthorne and their creative staff gather around the worktable in their west Berkeley offices and put their heads together to see how they can turn a Martha idea upside down on its head.

Take, for instance, the make-your-own doormat, made from AstroTurf. It's doubtful Martha would ever let the synthetic stuff near her home, much less as a welcoming rug.

Berger and Hawthorne admit there are people out there who will never actually do a project, not even one simple enough for an ape with opposable thumbs. But at the very least, they hope the magazine's philosophy and approach to design will stir up a creative vision for the everyday world around us.

The best and most obvious way to do that, of course, is by getting out of the house and into that big, wide world. Armed with a little imagination, anyone can head out into their nearest swap meet or Urban Ore and come back with potential treasures for their dwelling.

"It's simply a matter of looking at a door or a window and thinking outside of the box," said Hawthorne.

"Or deep within the cardboard box, and seeing what they can make out of it," offers Berger.

Cassandra Braun can be reached at 925-977-8483 or cbraun@ectimes.com.



A SCRABBLE GAME becomes a bulletin board with the addition of magnets.

TROLLING FOR TREASURE

Here's a brief list of local spots to troll for salvaged treasures or to foster those creative, reuse juices:

Urban Ore (900 Murray St., Berkeley) is quite possibly the mother of all local sites for salvaged materials, offering everything from sinks to screen doors. 510-841-7183.

Omega Salvage (2407 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) is considered the "up-scale" version of the reclaimed building-material world. 510-843-7368.

The Reuse People in Alameda. This company puts the do-it-yourself into the DIY project. You'll need a little brawn and a pickup truck for this outfit where shoppers show up to a designated "deconstruction" site and hammer and whack away for whatever materials or fixtures fit the list. OK, it's a far cry from Home Depot, but you can get some quality materials and also minimize the landfills. 510-522-2722, www.thereusepeople.org

So copious are Bay Area flea markets that we could fill an entire book, so here are a couple of impressive mentions: **Berkeley Flea Market** (1937 Ashby Ave., Berkeley) meets every weekend. 510-644-0744. **The Alameda Flea Market** (100 Alameda Blvd., S.F.) meets weekends 415-647-2043.

Other Resources

The Berkeley Library's Tool Lending Library. Books aren't the only thing one can check out from the library. The tool library loans out everything from hammers to hacksaws. But beware, just like books, the gadgets accrue late fees if they aren't returned on time. 510-981-6101.

For more information, ReadyMade's Web site, www.readymademag.com, has a great resource list from industrial supply catalogs to wholesalers. For a fee, you can also order past issues for projects that float your boat.

ENCE — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder and creative response through artistic and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science.
EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year. "African American Inventors," through April 6. An exhibit that highlights a se-

lection of contributions that African American inventors and scientists have made to American society. Historical and contemporary inventors will be represented.
Free; programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through May: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or www.juniorcenter.org.
MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — Jennifer Bartlett and Elizabeth Murray, through March 7. A major exhibit of paintings by two alumni.

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS SERIES — Will Rogan, Feb. 17 through March 7. A multimedia/video installation by the Bay Area artist. Artist Reception, Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
"Susan Magnus: Fathom," closing Feb. 15. An installation on the subjects of maps and water.
Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM/mcam.home.html.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, February 13, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Phenom channels Satchmo's spirit

NEW ORLEANS

IT WAS EERIE, watching 18-year-old jazz phenom Troy Andrews perform here the other night. Here we were, right across the street from Louis Armstrong Park, and this young horn virtuoso was seemingly channeling Satchmo's spirit.

Our friend, long-time Oakland resident Patti Averbuck, a college instructor who winters here in the Crescent City, had led us to her favorite jazz clubs, those known mostly to locals and well away from touristy Bourbon Street. Its down-home name: The Funky Butt.

But Averbuck hadn't prepared us for Andrews, a reedy black kid also known as Trombone Shorty even though he's now 6 feet tall. He's been playing in local brass bands since age 5. At first, we thought we were going to be watching a glorified high-school jazz band, since the average age of Andrews' talented ensemble was about 19.

But once this kid picked up his trumpet and then his trombone, we knew we'd stepped into a rarefied world of virtuosity. He was incredible, this young Louis Armstrong. There's fulsome praise for the kid on Andrews' Web site from Wynton Marsalis ("I'm his biggest fan"). Shorty was tutored by his older brother, recording artist James Andrews. His grandfather: Jessie Hill, had a classic R&B hit (still often played at parties), "Ooh Poo Pah Doo." Trombone Shorty, East Bay jazz aficionado Averbuck told us, was offered a Juilliard scholarship, but passed.

Gifted young musicians like Andrews are keeping the tradition of New Orleans traditional jazz alive, but so is that city's WWOZ-FM. Like Berkeley's KPFA, it's a non-NPR, public station. It's a local cultural treasure.

Averbuck's husband, former UC-Berkeley Law School admissions chair Dr. David Averbuck, is spending lots of his time down here volunteering at WWOZ. Averbuck, a long-time activist who marched with Cesar Chavez in the '60s, says, "Anything I can do to help this great station, I'll do."

Despite being disabled, David Averbuck, whose mother lives in Montclair, has done office work — filing, typing, etc. — and has just begun training as a WWOZ producer. "I know nothing about producing," Averbuck admitted to me, "And I'm a bit scared. But if they ask me to do it, I'll do it." WWOZ is staffed entirely by volunteers, and plays a wide range of jazz and R&B. It must be doing OK, though — WWOZ is looking for bigger quarters.

The station provides a welcome relief from conglomeratized radio — and from politics — and carries on New Orleans' colorful musical traditions. One day I heard Armstrong and then an interview with the elderly widow of the local musician who wrote "Tiger Rag." Even though I listen mainly to classical in the car, I got hooked on WWOZ-FM while here in New Orleans, and now listen to it on the Web, at www.wwoz.org. Check it out; it's as close as you can get to New Orleans without physically being there.

TEST YOUR "GAYDAR": A good word to describe Daphne Brogdon, who started her broadcast career as Dr. Dean Edell's producer at KGO Radio, is "saucy." Brogdon went on to co-host FX's "X-Show." Now, her first solo gig seems perfect for this irreverent single gal — beginning March 12, she'll host Fox's new reality series, "Playing It Straight."

A single woman will try to figure out which of 14 "sexy bachelors" are gay and which are straight. If one of the guys makes it to the finish line, he'll win \$1 million. You're probably saying, "Oh, brother." But knowing Daphne, she might actually make this thing fun to watch.

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net



CHIA COUCH? Dare to be different by growing ReadyMade magazine's do-it-yourself sod sofa.

Junkpile to punk style

■ Berkeley-based magazine ReadyMade gives do-it-yourself decor an edge

By Cassandra Braun

STAFF WRITER

You know what they say: One person's trash is another person's treasure.

One person can stumble upon a weathered, paint-stripped door, and see a weathered, paint-stripped door, while on the other side of the junk heap, another might see the same scrap and envision a funky coffee table to accent their Ikea couch.

Shoshana Berger and Grace Hawthorne are hoping to cultivate the latter approach to design, defined by a hipster, garage-project twist. Call it industrial chic, call it urban decor; either way, their Berkeley-based magazine, "ReadyMade," features do-it-yourself projects and design ideas with an edge.

"We were closet readers of what we call the domestic porn on the newsstand — Martha Stewart Living, Wallpaper — and there was nothing that represented us ... young, creative types who wanted to live in original, well-designed environments," explained 36-year-old Berger, the bimonthly magazine's editor-in-chief.

So, three years ago, Berger founded "ReadyMade" with Hawthorne, the magazine's publisher, who joined early in its infancy.

But it's no Better Homes and Gardens. You won't find suggestions for white-washed Nantucket-style interiors. And you'll never see the word "craft" used in any of their pages. "It makes us think of doilymaking," says Berger.

Instead, you'll find "instructions for everyday living" for the Gen X aesthetic, which includes transforming old globes into hanging lamps or creating candleholders out of old faucet pipes.

"We have a pretty good sense of our readers and how they like looking for everyday objects and turning it into something that's cool, individualistic and customized," said Berger. "And something that fits within their budget."

Unorthodox materials that often find their way on their "ingredient" lists include paper clips, electrical wiring, zippers or even an old Scrabble set (an especially cool project that details how to create your own refrigerator magnets — not to mention enhance your Scrabble score — by gluing miniature magnets to the back of the little wooden letter pieces and board).



A TOMATO PLANT WIRE and clothes pins create a truly unique lamp shade, above.

See READYMADE, Page C9

Berkeley foundry heats things up

By Brian Kluepfel

CORRESPONDENT

When Italian immigrant Piero Mussi arrived in the United States in 1975, he had no command of English, but he knew the secret language of the "lost wax" bronze-casting process. After two years of work in a San Leandro foundry, he had enough capital to begin his own concern, Artworks Foundry, in Richmond. It moved shortly thereafter to West Berkeley, where it's grown in renown ever since.

The Piacenza native created a legacy worthy of Dante Alighieri: art forged in, seemingly, the fires of hell.

Thirty-pound bronze ingots are melted at 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit in a subterranean crucible, and then poured into molds to make the statues and other objects produced by Artworks.

The Heinz Street foundry is a beehive of noise and activity. More than 30 workers are all engaged in some form of the "lost wax" process, which begins when a figurine of clay, wood, stone, etc., is brought in by an artist. The figure is coated with polyurethane rubber, which yields the first mold, and from that a "wax positive" is formed.

From the wax positive comes the final half-inch-thick ceramic shell, which is heated in an oven to 1,100 degrees so that it can sustain the intense heat of the silicon bronze when the orange, viscous liquid is poured into it. (The process is called "lost wax" because the wax inside the shell is steamed away in a device called an autoclave prior to the pour.)

One can feel the intense heat



THE MONUMENTAL 18-foot-tall "The Spirit of Imperial Beach" is a work by sculptor A. Wasil.

from 15 feet away; you might imagine what the pourers feel. The two workers who control the pour are known as the "lead pour" and the "dead man." Perhaps handling 400 pounds of molten bronze leads to such gallows humor.

After the molds are cracked open to reveal the final bronze figure, the bronze is sand-blasted and finished to remove any hints of the casting or imperfections. Usually the next step is to apply a patina — a chemical mix (ferrous nitrate, cupric nitrate or sul-

phurated potash) that's brushed on to add color to the object.

Tom Schrey, who's worked at the foundry since 1983, is proud of the different forms that come, well, pouring out of the shop. "We have a variety of styles here," he notes. In fact, the foundry is engaged in public and private projects around the country and the globe, and most East Bay residents have seen something made at Artworks.

See ARTWORKS, Page C9

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Artworks Foundry and Gallery

WHERE: 729 Heinz St., No. 10, Berkeley

WHEN: Tours of the foundry are available Wednesdays between 8 a.m. and noon. The tours are free, but must be arranged at least a week in advance.

INFORMATION: 510-644-2735 or see www.artworksfoundry.com



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Zinger of British farce served

"B RITISH COMEDY has long been a source of japey. But there are curious comestibles the three English comedians which British playwright Ayckbourn sets his absurd Person Singular rent offering of the Players.

The action takes place in the kitchens of three different Eves — past, present, future. Act I is set in the kitchen of Jane (Mary Passmore), a pulsive tidy-upper, and (Edwin Richards), a scratching builder who is to get ahead.

It's raining. They await their guests, Sidney on the basis of help him cut some comes Ronald (Alan Ayckbourn), a phlegmatic banker-influenced dipso (Caroline McKinnon), soon by womanizing Geoffrey (David Morrissey), his sadly added wife (Sarah Green).

Jane, clad in a yellow and wearing huge "wellies," gets locked in the kitchen when she slips pick up the tonic she Marion's gin — the funniest peak of Act I.

Act II's high point is a mute and distraught her attempts at suicide pills, oven, rope — and eddy but accidentally stepping over common home maintenance Green's wordless performance is heartbreakingly hilarious.

Act III, set in the kitchen, is the comedy. The three couples slip cause the heat has been weeks (like Ronald and marriage). Geoffrey has reputation. Eva has her wits. Jane flutters, getting Sidney alone the marital and social literally call the tune in a pant, dancing finale.

A resounding clap for director Ken Roff design, and the crew sends a different kitchen each 10-minute interval Great stagecraft to far farcical zinger, and the an excellent cast director Beebeater-size serving "British comedic ha sine," garnished with lies and foibles.

Call 415-456-9555 times and prices.

"DUEL" AT CENTRAL WORKS: Might as well day's effort into an armistists column, and if somebody you probably expect to see follow-up boom: Russian drama short-story writer Anton Pavlovich Chekhov.

The son of a merchant Chekhov was educated at the University of Moscow. While still at university, he published magazine stories and OK. So it's a strange serves to segue into item. Next Friday, Central Works opens a new "Chekhov's The Duel" Berkeley City Club, 400 Grant Ave., Berkeley, from the novella by Gary Graves.

Set in a remote coastal village, the play counts a confrontation a hapless, Hamlet-like avant and a ruthless winist who also just be an expert manager.

Robert Weinapple After Thursday's "Duel" will be performed p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Saturdays; 5 p.m. through March 27.

The preview and national performances and March 4 are pre-can. Regular performances, call 510-538-2627.

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@ectimes.com 262-2768.

cars.com

Friday, February 13, 2004

Section D

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to techs
creasing

BARBARA POWELL
ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS
ANTONIO — When he was
big, Frank Garza did the
to every toy his parents
ear it apart to see how it
the 40-year-old father of

Garza has made a career out of his childhood habit as an automotive service technician. He averages 50 hours per week at a dealership diagnosing and repairing cars and trucks. He is increasingly sophisticated in the changing technology of cars and trucks requires today's automotive technician to be an electrician, a mechanic, a skilled enough to work on a vehicle where everything is computer-controlled. "I want to work on a computer," he says. "I want to become a service technician," he says. Molla, a vice president of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, which certifies automotive service technicians, says that the industry is looking for technicians who can handle the increasingly sophisticated technology of cars and trucks. He says that the industry is looking for technicians who can handle the increasingly sophisticated technology of cars and trucks.

and for service technicians all levels is growing. The Automotive Service Association in Texas, projects that more auto techs will be hired over the next decade, an 80% increase.

estimated the average age of an experienced auto tech is mid-40s and that 30,000 to 40,000 people leave the field each year.

D20 TECHS. Page D2



WHILE DESIGNATED as a compact, the 2004 Saturn Ion quad coupe is roomy inside, with easy access to back seats and a large trunk. Despite having only a four-cylinder engine, this little car has acceleration power.

Saturn Ion quad coupe appeals to buyers of all ages

MOTOR MATTERS

Although the 2004 Saturn Ion quad coupe is targeted for young compact-car enthusiasts, it sure did capture my fancy. And I'm no spring chicken.

Admittedly, my first impression was negative, and I wished that this test-drive week would be over quickly. But as the week wore on, I found the quad coupe to be a neat little car that was easy to handle and surprisingly peppy.

In fact, near the end of the week, I ran errands I didn't have to make as an excuse to have an enjoyable

Even though it has four doors, the door design on the Ion makes this quad coupe appear to be a two-door. This is because the rear doors swing backward, exposing two inviting rear seats with some sort of center console.

There is enough head and legroom for the passengers not to feel squished.

The 2004 model is a big improvement over the former Ion, especially with the upholstery. The new model has better fabric covering the seats, and front armrests

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

The instrument panel is far forward in the central area of the dashboard, instead of the usual location under the steering wheel.

This is the second car I've driven recently that uses this location, and I hope all manufacturers will go with this design trend. It is so much easier to view the speedometer and

other gauges while keeping an eye on the road.

Also, for anyone requiring reading glasses — such as me — this “far away” location makes it easier to view the odometer and other small data. Although young people don’t have this problem, many senior — and not-so senior — citizens do.

I was initially turned off by the car because it lacked a dynamite engine. I like fast cars, and thought that the little 2.2-liter inline four-cylinder that can only generate 140 horsepower would be insufficient to

satisfy my desires. Wrong!

This little car is hot; just step on the accelerator and it does what is demanded. Don't misunderstand me, though. The Ion is not in the sports cars category.

If a Corvette had stopped next to me at a traffic light, I wouldn't have challenged it. But for all-around, get-around, I took a quick liking to this little compact

I use the word "compact" as that is its classification but that word is misleading.

See KEANE, Page D2



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1978 Toyota Cressida still retains soft, quiet ride

MOTOR MATTERS

Toyota decided to rebadge one of its large domestic models in 1978, call it Cressida, and market it in the United States. It was one of Toyota's initial forays outside the econobox arena and was deemed successful.

That was about the time Jim and Elizabeth Goodwyn decided to replace their Opel. Their Oldsmobile was still in good shape, so a smaller — but not small — car was in order. They paid a visit to a nearby Toyota dealership in May where they found a beige Toyota Cressida on the lot.

Goodwyn had done his homework and was impressed with the reliability reports on the Cressida. "I like the fact that it burns regular gas," he says.

His wife, he recalls, was more interested in the spacious interior and various amenities.

They purchased the 15-foot-4-inch-long four-door sedan with a window sticker price of \$7,284. Goodwyn fired up the 156-cubic-inch overhead-cam six-cylinder engine and drove it across town to their home.

"For a long time," Goodwyn says, "she wouldn't drive that car." Eventually, his wife tired of driving their big Oldsmobile and tried the Toyota once. "Then she took it over," Goodwyn says.

"That's the last I saw of it." The Cressida was her car until her death in 1993.

Several times over the years she rejected her husband's offer to replace it with a newer car. Besides her local trips, the couple would take the car on vacation trips to Florida, the 106-inch wheelbase providing a comfortable ride.

Everything on the Cressida works today as well as it did 25 years ago. The odometer is about to record 95,000 miles.

The original window sticker discloses that the Cressida entered the United States at the Port of Baltimore and that it was equipped with: full transistorized ignition, 175SR14 white radial tires, three-speaker AM/FM stereo, power front disc brakes, wide body-side molding, driver lumbar support, and deluxe wheel covers.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

It also had a trunk courtesy light, intermittent wipers, electric defogger, air conditioning, bumper guards, power steering, electric clock, tinted glass and tachometer.

The condition of the car proves that it has been garage-kept since 1978. The vinyl dashboard shows no sign of cracking. The windows are operated by hand cranks.

The three-spoke steering wheel features three horn buttons, one on each spoke. At the far left of the dashboard is the transmission overdrive switch.

At the other end, beneath the glove compartment door, is a convenient catch-all shelf. The dashboard is filled with interesting gadgets including a speedometer ready to indicate speeds up to 120 mph.

Goodwyn also reports that, with a two-barrel carburetor feeding the engine, the Cressida delivers mileage figures of 20 miles per gallon in the city and 27 mpg on the highway. "It's got pickup," Goodwyn verifies.

He remembers that years ago his wife dented a bumper in an "altercation" with a parking lot light pole, although nothing serious enough to replace. A few years later the right front fender was damaged while the car was parked. "That's when I finally replaced both the bumper and the fender," he recalls.

Compared with other 1978 cars, the Toyota Cressida is loaded with goodies including pockets on the backs of the front seats. More importantly, the trunk can store his bag of golf clubs.

Beyond those nice extras, Goodwyn has been more impressed with performance. "Even now," he says, "it's quiet and there's no vibration."

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only photos of good quality will be considered.



ORIGINAL OWNER of this 1978 Toyota Cressida still drives the car which is about to record 95,000 miles on the

Prep before taking a winter road trip

KNIGHT RIDER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

To ward off costly repairs — and to protect your family's safety — make sure your car is in tip-top shape before traveling this winter.

The checklist

Have a mechanic do the following:

- Check the battery, ignition system, brakes, wiring, hoses, belts, filters and PVC valve.

- Change and adjust spark plugs

- Check the tires for air, sidewall wear, tread depth; all-weather radials are adequate for most roads, but some places require chains or snow tires.

- Check oil level; if necessary, replace oil with winter-grade oil.

- Make sure the defroster, heater, lights, hazard lights and wipers are in good working order.

- Check levels of antifreeze and windshield washer fluid. Replenish, if needed

The winter car kit

Keep these items in your car:

- Tool kit, including pliers, wrench, screwdriver, shovel, ice scraper, snow brush, wooden matches in waterproof box, compass, pocket knife, flashlight with extra batteries, reflective triangles and a can opener

- Spare tire, properly inflated, with wrench and tripod-type jack

- Jumper cables

- First aid kit and necessary medicines

- Set of tire chains or ice cleats and a sack of sand for emergency use

- Blankets (thermal or heavy), mittens, socks, caps and gloves

- Nonperishable foods, such as fruit, unsalted nuts and bottled water

SOURCES: U.S. Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Council

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

There is plenty of interior room, the trunk lid opens wide, and when a soda bottle slipped out of my shopping bag and rolled forward, I had to crawl into the trunk to reach it.

As for other cargo, because the backrest on the front passenger seat folds flat, I was able to carry a big box that was easily loaded due to the fact that there is no B-pillar to interfere, which is another benefit of the door design. It was this kind of friendly usefulness that caused me to appreciate the Ion coupe.

My tester had numerous features included as standard equipment in the

\$16,685 base price, including power locks with anti-lockout, and remote keyless entry with an alarm.

Also included were an adjustable steering column, auto headlamps, driver seat height adjuster, and power windows and mirrors. What brought the total to \$18,999 were such things as head curtain side airbags, a deck lid spoiler, anti-lock brakes with traction control and XM Satellite radio.

I enjoy XM Satellite, or at least I used to. My favorite channels that played nothing but music now have commercials promoting OnStar. For something costing \$9.99 a month, I don't appreciate the commercial intrusion.

But I definitely appreciate the car. I'm sure this Ion will attract many buyers — young and old.

Auto techs

FROM PAGE D1

each year than enter it.

Partly, that's because the military is now turning out more people who want to pursue a four-year degree and fewer who want to become trained technicians. And partly, the shortfall is a byproduct of parents and teachers who retain the image of the job as one requiring few technical skills and that only promises

dirty, back-breaking work with meager compensation.

"I don't think the industry has done a good enough job getting the word out that it's a very challenging job and you can make a good living at it," Paul Beck, service director at the dealership where Garza works, said. "Some people feel we're just a greasy old mechanic."

There also is a shortage of high schools willing to invest in certified automotive technology programs and a shortage of qualified instructors, Angie Wilson, a spokes-

woman for the Automotive Service Education, said.

Demand and the need to pay for the techs, who get paid by the hour, has led to better pay for the job, known as a flat rate. That means newly certified techs can earn \$35,000 and experienced ones can earn \$55,000 to \$75,000.

The highest wages go to the techs specialists, who may not shop foremen — they can earn as much as \$100,000 per year.

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Pathfinder Armada now Nissan's big brother

MOTOR MATTERS

It's surprising about the Armada isn't that Nissan built it, but that it has taken until now to build it.

The SUV market has been de-escalating since the late 1990s.

We've rounded the corner on the millennium, sport utility vehicles are still selling strongly, but the market is changing.

Demand is shifting away from small mid- and large-size SUVs towards small utility vehicles and crossovers of all sizes.

With this as a backdrop, Nissan's decision to field its newest SUV is also its largest SUV.

It's a sense that Nissan is walking into a party that's about to break up.

Based on an all-new platform, the Armada takes on the role of big brother in the Nissan SUV family, joining the Xterra, Pathfinder and the Armada is full-size in all respects.

At 207 inches long, and weighing in at more than 5,000 pounds, yes, but not afraid to lead the way.

Nissan's XXL size utility is available in rear- and all-wheel drive configurations and the latter is off-road. The AWD system is engaged by a dashboard switch, and the automatic, full-time four-wheel

DAN LYONS
Get Off the Road

drive, and a "4 Lo" range.

Undercarriage skid plates are available as part of an off-road package and provide protection for the oil pan, fuel tank and transfer case.

Off-road equipped models also include "Rancho" gas shocks and all-terrain tires with a more aggressive tread pattern.

With wheels stretched to the corners of the chassis, Armada has relatively little body overhang — the better to step over obstacles beneath.

Ground clearance measures 10.7 inches on AWD models, and angles of approach, break over and departure are 31.1, 25.0 and 27.7 degrees, respectively.

While its size works against it in tight quarters, Armada tackles with assurance the kind of conditions that most people are likely to encounter off-road.

The independent suspension keeps you well planted, and there's tons of engine torque available to slog through mud or muck.

Of course, most Armadas are no more likely to go off pavement than a naval armada would go off sea, so it's no surprise that the new Nissan is well bred for the streets. Armada has a smooth road ride and



MOTOR MATTERS

NISSAN decides to introduce its biggest SUV, the Armada, at a time when buyers seem to be opting for smaller versions and crossover vehicles.

handles well for its size.

With 305 horsepower and 385 pounds-foot of torque, the 5.6-liter Endurance V8 provides some serious push for this large sport utility.

The Armada has been clocked at a 0-60 miles per hour best in the neighborhood of 7 seconds — that's hustling, for a 5,000-pound vehicle. As a result, the new Nissan makes short work of on-ramp merges and passing situations.

It's also well qualified to tow, which is one big reason people buy big trucks in the first place. The Armada is rated to tow as much as 9,100 pounds.

Of course, muscle like this commands a healthy appetite at the pumps.

Coupled to Nissan's five-speed automatic transmission, the V8 is EPA rated at 13/19 miles per gallon city/highway in 4x2 models, 13/18 mpg with all-wheel drive.

Inside, Armada offers three rows of seating as standard equipment, and honest room for six to seven.

You can replace the second row bench with optional captain's chairs, and Nissan joins the growing ranks of manufacturers offering a DVD entertainment system to keep the folks in rows two and three engaged

while in transit.

Even with all three rows occupied with passengers, Armada will hold a healthy 20 cubic feet of cargo in back. That number is expandable to as much as 97 cubic feet, depending on how many seats you fold down.

The only drawback in the way back is a somewhat tall lift-over height, which requires that you boost your gear up into the hold.

Up front, meanwhile, Nissan's newest has an easy step-in height, comfortable surroundings, and generally straight forward controls.

The exception is an HVAC sys-

tem whose switches are a little fussier than they ought to be.

The large sport utility vehicle class is really a specialty market, designed for those who need to haul heavy, tow large or bring along a bunch of people on a regular basis.

If that description fits you, the news is that you've now got another choice to consider.

And the good news is, it's a good choice. Nissan's Armada may be a late arrival, but the automaker has built a truck with solid, all-round capability that should stick around as long as the party lasts.

TOYOTA has introduced its Scion vehicle, the iC sports styling which will go on sale for 2005 model year. Scion is one of the Toyota models with more definitive styling.



MOTOR MATTERS

Toyota beefs up its flanks with bolder designs

MOTOR MATTERS

It's always fascinating to see a company make mistakes.

A manufacturer is especially prone to observe now as it beefs up like an army going to

its biggest challenge is its reputation, "the Buick of the Japanese makes," implying its stodgy, old-folk vehicles, increasing average buyer age.

Younger, hipper buyers created Scion, a brand within Toyota showrooms.

Experts have called it an attempt that is too early to de-stigmatize success or failure. Toyota calls it a laboratory with no winners.

Edmond, Toyota vice president and division general manager, says after only two months of sales, Scion boosted sales of its two models and more than 10,000 vehicles last year which it only operated for two years.

Scion recently introduced its iC, the iC.

Scion's coupe has some cool features: a panoramic glass roof, a manual-like the low-profile instrument cluster, inspired by Japanese paper, and a 160-horsepower engine that the Volkswagen Jetta and Civic Coupe and Ford

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

cus hatchback a run for their money.

An available supercharger boosts output to 200 horsepower. All for "well under \$20,000," Scion vice president Jim Farley said.

But the iC struck me as too mainstream, as I told Jim Press, Toyota Motor Sales executive vice president and chief operating officer. In contrast to the quirky entry-level xA car and, particularly, the xB urban utility, which I adore.

Press privately agreed, explaining the iC was developed in merely 14 months; its successor will be more polarizing.

Scion expands outside California to the East Coast, Southeast and the Gulf States, finally going national in late June with about 60 percent of Toyota dealers — or about 730 of them — selling Scions.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Toyota is trying to inject some passion into the styling of its Lexus luxury cars.

At the Tokyo Motor Show last fall, Lexus unveiled two concept cars that hint at a future design direction. In Detroit, Lexus introduced the 2006 GS sports sedan.

The third-generation GS "will be the first in a new wave of vehicles that will reflect a new, more passionate direction in styling, inside

and out," said Lexus General Manager Denny Clements.

The new GS is sleeker and sportier with a longer wheelbase, but only a tad more length, to deliver classic sports sedan proportions.

The GS is powered by either a 4.3-liter V8 engine or a new 245-horsepower V6. Both engines are paired with a six-speed automatic. V6 versions can be ordered — for the first time — with all-wheel drive.

Toyota, in total, is moving headlong into hybrid vehicles. Its first and currently only hybrid, the Prius, now in its second generation, won the 2004 North American Car of the Year award from journalists.

Toyota announced it will sell a hybrid Highlander sport utility in 2005, and a hybrid version of the RX 330, to be called the RX 400h, this fall.

Calling the RX 400h "the world's first luxury hybrid vehicle," Clements said the Lexus is significantly more powerful than the Prius.

Both the Highlander and RX 400h will deliver 270 horsepower as the new battery delivers twice the power of that in the Prius.

In fact, the RX 400h will deliver nearly 20 percent more horsepower than the RX 330.

"Its combined fuel efficiency is significantly better than the current average for a four-cylinder compact sedan," Clements said.

"Its estimated driving range is more than 600 miles on a tank of

Toyota's biggest challenge is its image as the "Buick of the Japanese auto makes," implying its reputation for stodgy, old-folk vehicles, and its increasing average buyer age. Scion seeks to change that.

gas."

On yet another flank, Toyota is bent on getting more of the share of the American pickup market, having broken ground for a new pickup assembly plant deep in the heart of truck country in San Antonio, Texas.

It is scheduled to open in mid-2006 and begin producing the next-generation Tundra for the 2007 model year.

Toyota hinted at the design of that Tundra with the FTX concept unveiled in Detroit, that showed a bigger, beefier pickup described as "casually elegant" by Toyota designers.

"The FTX concept was developed to make a bold statement about Toyota's future full-size pickup truck plans," said Toyota chief Press.

Bold moves appear to be the strategy for Toyota these days.

More elite car brands compete for high rollers

MOTOR MATTERS

Not many car buyers shop for vehicles that cost as much as a home, but for the rich and the famous there are more choices to select from.

That's because Mercedes-Benz introduced its Maybach last year, a car that can cost up to \$350,000. It competes with the Bentley and Rolls-Royce, which once were the exclusive nameplates in this segment.

What's more, Bentley and Rolls — which were almost conjoined twins for 70 years — are now separate companies.

In fact, those two brands, once the epitome of British automotive excellence, are still made in England, but they are owned by German car makers and use German engines and other components which they share with other brands owned by their parent companies.

Sales of these ultra prestige cars are tiny compared to most luxury brands, but Germany's big three auto manufacturers are intent on building more of these cars than ever before.

Some 5,800 of these prestige brands will be manufactured this year according to the German car makers.

Bentley has historically outsold Rolls when they were sister brands. Bentley still is the leading seller in the segment, says Adrian Hallmark, who heads its marketing division.

He predicts that Bentley will sell 3,800 cars this year, thanks mainly to the introduction of the GT Coupe.

It will be Bentley's entry-level at a mere \$150,000 and goes on sale later this year.

However, sales of Bentley's flagship Arnage model, the only Bentley that competes head-on with Maybach and Rolls-Royce, will actually decline about 200 units from the 1,000 unit level achieved last year worldwide.

"The Arnage is in its sixth year, and we would normally expect a drop-off because of that," Hallmark says.

The average Bentley customer adds about 10 percent on options to the Arnage. On the long wheel-base model, added options climb to 20 percent.

Bentley, which is owned by Volkswagen AG, lost its rights to the Rolls-Royce brand to BMW on Jan.

HERB SHULDINER
Down the Road

1, 2003. "Emotionally, we miss Rolls-Royce, but not financially," Hallmark claims.

Because of a delayed start up, Rolls-Royce produced only 481 cars in 2003, says chairman Tony Gott. Only 300 were delivered to customers and about half of those were exported to the U.S. even though the first Rolls didn't reach here until May.

"We're now ramping up production and building five cars per day," Gott says.

That will enable the company to build 1,000 Rolls models this year. It takes 260 hours to produce each Rolls-Royce Phantom, he reveals.

"We're beginning to see people becoming more aware of the new Rolls-Royce," Gott says. "We have to do this thing right and maintain exclusivity," he states.

He adds that BMW's engineering is helping to achieve a degree of excellence in this Rolls generation.

"I used to dream of making a no-compromise vehicle like this," says Gott, who used to head Rolls-Royce under former owners.

"Business is brisk and, if you ordered a car now, you would have to wait six months to get delivery."

Mercedes-Benz produced 600 Maybachs last year. About one-third were sold in the U.S. Like Rolls, Maybach got off to a delayed production start and was only on sale for a little over six months.

Mercedes says production problems have now been overcome and expressed confidence that it will be able to build 1,000 Maybach cars this year.

He says U.S. sales will be somewhat under 400 units in 2004.

Bentley's Hallmark is unimpressed with this competition. He predicts that Maybach and Rolls-Royce will actually bring Bentley more customers.

Hallmark also expressed doubt that either of his main competitors could reach the 1,000 sales mark.

But at the very least, the German car makers are giving the high rollers a great range of ultra-premium car choices. Meanwhile, most of us must be content with the mass-produced vehicle variety.

protect transmission, auxiliary cooler recommended when towing

MOTOR MATTERS

Read your advice about transmission coolers.

To tow a 22-foot travel trailer with my new Silverado and considering how necessary it is to have an auxiliary cooler.

I bought the truck I ordered everything and everything that would meet all my needs.

Technician recommends the transmission to have trouble-free operation from the transmission.

Both the expense and trouble of a transmission oil cooler have long been touted as

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

a means of protecting an automatic transmission from life-shortening heat.

According to the Automatic Transmission Rebuilder's Association, 90 percent of all transmission failures are because of heat.

Heat occurs because of fluid turbulence in the torque converter and friction in clutches and bearings and increases when towing or driving in stop-and-go conditions.

Hot weather and sustained high speed or mountain driving also are causes of elevated temperature.

Each 20 degrees that the fluid rises beyond 175 degrees cuts fluid life in half.

At about 240 degrees the oxidized fluid begins to form varnish and loses its lubricating properties.

At 260 degrees the transmission's rubber seals begin to harden, causing pressure losses and leakage.

At or beyond this range one can expect very short service life from the transmission.

Auto manufacturers install a liquid-to-liquid transmission cooler within the radiator.

This is an efficient means of transferring heat and helps bring the transmission fluid up to optimum temperature quickly, but loses

effectiveness as engine temperature rises beyond 210 degrees or so.

Most coolers of this type reduce fluid temperature by about 10 percent, which isn't good enough if the incoming fluid soars to 300 degrees.

A hard-working transmission also can place an additional burden on a marginally effective radiator.

An after-market transmission oil cooler resembles a radiator the size of a laptop PC and mounts in the air stream just in front of the A-C condenser.

Connected in series (downstream) with the original cooler, an adequately sized unit should reduce

fluid temperature an additional 40 to 60 degrees.

Tube-and-fin-style coolers are the larger and more economical type, while stacked plate coolers are sturdier, more compact and more costly.

What does it take to install one? Plan on a cost of \$50 to \$100 for the part and one to three hours to install it.

Some vehicles have an abundance of room for the cooler and easy access to the behind-the-grill area, while others can pose quite a challenge to fit the part and hoses in place.

When installing the cooler, be sure to follow all installation instructions, properly support the unit,

and route the hoses carefully to avoid kinking or vibration-related injury.

For a helpful chart illustrating radiator cooler return line location (it can be difficult to tell which fitting is which), check www.txchange.com-cooler.htm.

My recommendation? Yes, do it. Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif.

E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190.

He cannot make personal replies.

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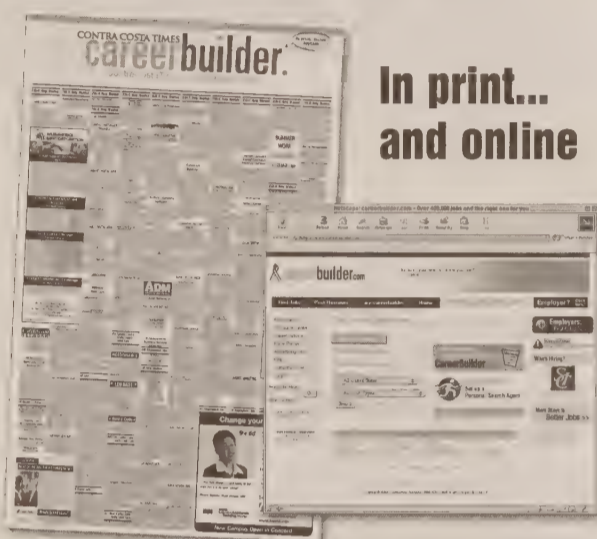
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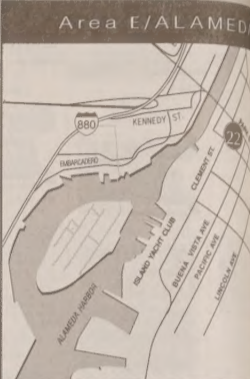
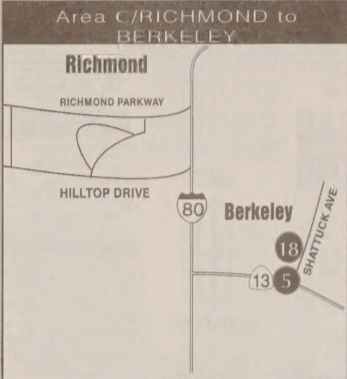
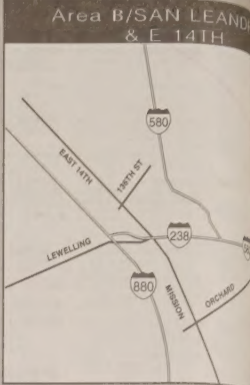
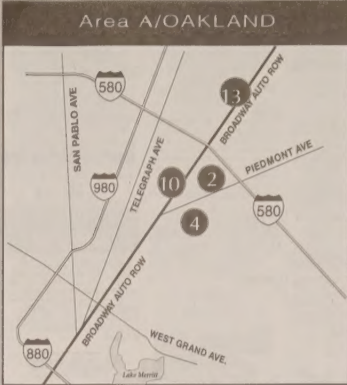
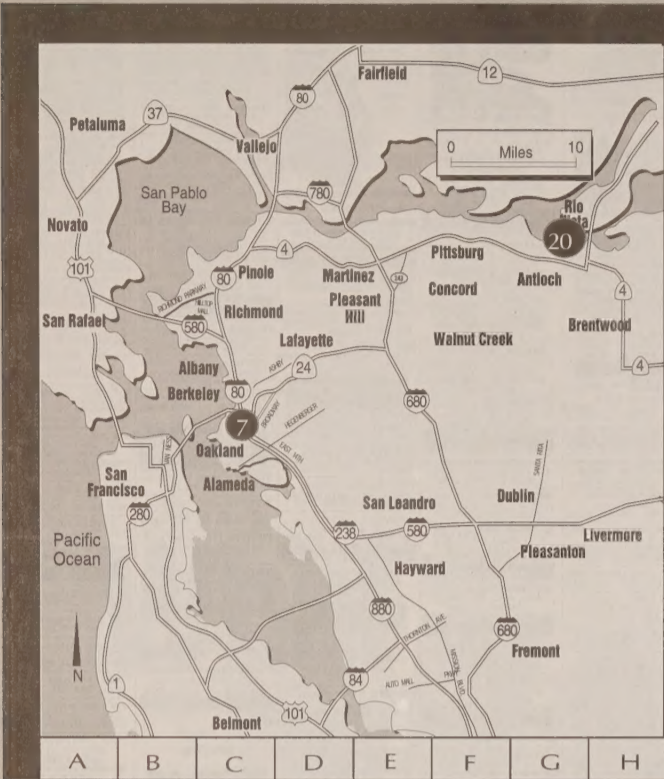
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